Sandwell
CHRONICLE

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Work set to start on creating more space for shops

BIG STORES HEAD FOR RETAIL PARK

Report by David Cosgrove

PLANS to expand a retail park in Wednesbury, paving the way for the arrival of top brands including M&S and Nandos, have been given the green light.

Work at the Gallagher Retail Park, near Junction 9 of the M6, is now expected to start imminently on an existing car park.

Other new brands moving to the huge site include Currys, Oak Furnitureland, Sofology, and Costa Coffee.

An M&S Food Hall will take 11,000 sq ft of the downsized Currys' unit on a 20-year lease.

Gallagher bosses have also said the expansion plan will create more than 200 jobs in total.

Wednesbury South ward Councillor Bob Lloyd said he welcomed the proposals which offered a boost to the town.

He said: "That area just off the M6 is really picking up and this [expansion] will help the area around it as well. It's a positive thing – you can never knock something which brings more jobs.

Positive

"Wednesbury is quite a traditional Black Country town, with lots of independent shops in the town centre and not many big 'anchor' stores. So to have the big shops at the retail park is complementary.

"Also people might get off at junction nine to go to the retail park then want to come into the town – it can be the best of both worlds."

Councillor Lloyd also said the overhaul of the retail park will also improve traffic flow around the complex, as 'with a bigger park you'll tend to have a better spread of people across it'. The 200,000 sq ft retail park already has a number of high profile names including Next, TK Maxx, Outfit, Mamas and Papas, Boots, Furniture Village, SCS, Harveys, Burger King and Pizza Hut.

Chiefs have previously said building work on the site should be finished by spring next year.

Quadrant Estates' partner James Bidwell said: "These latest brands to sign further reinforce the appeal of Gallagher Retail Park, and complement the existing line-up of high profile tenants.

"The new tenants will provide even greater vibrancy and vitality to Gallagher Retail Park."

But the site is set to be boosted with the new development on an existing car park. Other new brands moving to the bigger and better destination include Currys, Tapi Carpets, Oak Furnitureland, Sofology, Mod Pizza and Smashburger.

JOY AT £1,400 FOR CAUSE, DESPITE TRAVELLERS

Organiser Kelly Wiggetts-Clinton, right, with her six-year-old son Cruze and Sandwell Mayor Julie Webb

A CHARITY event has succeeded in raising £1,400, despite having to be rearranged due to organisers' fear of trouble from travellers.

On Saturday, the annual event in aid of Birmingham Children's Hospital went ahead at the Gough Arms pub in West Bromwich, much to the delight of organiser Kelly Wiggetts-Clinton.

She has been organising the fundraiser for the past five years to say thank you to the hospital that provides ongoing care and support to her son Cruze, six, who was diagnosed with two holes in his heart when he was 18 months old. Over the years it has raised more than £10,000 for the hospital.

However, after originally planning to hold this year's fundraiser on July 23, Kelly was heartbroken that she had to scale it back when a group of travellers set up camp over the road and were allegedly threatening to cause trouble at the pub on Jowetts Lane.

Due to the group camped out on the green space between Wyntor Lane and Schofield Avenue, the event was restricted to indoors, with the pub operating a locked-door policy. But on Saturday the full event took place, complete with bouncy castles, face-painting, raffles, a variety of stalls, and more.

Kelly said: "Despite everything we still raised £1,400 from the two events, and had about 200 people here, including the mayor and local councillors, who have been very supportive. After the hard time that we had, seeing everyone pull together has been so nice. I want to say thank you to everyone that came, and to my family and friends."

POLICE

Special constable in arrest gets the sack

A SPECIAL constable who was arrested following an assault has been sacked.

David Attewell, who was based in Sandwell, was involved in an altercation in July while off duty and accepted a caution for assault. Officers were called to reports of an assault at 9pm on July 8 and Mr Attewell was arrested the next day.

West Midlands Police said the part-time officer's actions amounted to gross misconduct. At a misconduct hearing in Birmingham, Chief Constable Dave Thompson said the incident was so serious Mr Attewell could not continue to serve with the force and that the public needed to have confidence in the police. Mr Attewell did not attend the hearing.

RETAIL

Shopping centre in parking boost

DOZENS more parking spaces are to be made available at a shopping centre in Great Barr. The car park at the Scott Arms Shopping Centre will be rearranged to allow more vehicles onto the site.

The upgrade forms part of wider plans to revamp the centre after it was taken over by London and Cambridge Properties last year.

It will mean a total of 159 parking spaces will be available and improved circulation around the site.

HEALTH

Hospital staff to live within a mile of site

MORE than one in 10 workers at Sandwell's new 'super hospital' will live within one mile of the site, it has been revealed.

Toby Lewis, chief executive of the trust that will run it, hailed the achievement.

The £350 million Midland Metropolitan Hospital is being built in Grove Lane, Smethwick, and is due to open in autumn 2018.

Major progress has been made, with the building beginning to take shape.

Mr Lewis said on his Twitter account: "Great to hear 11 per cent of employees on Midland Met site live inside a mile of the new hospital."

INSIDE

HOLIDAYS FUN IS BOUNCING BACK

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Record number of uni places offered

RECORD numbers of students have been offered university places, as the latest A-level results showed the gap between boys and girls achieving the very top grades has narrowed for the first time in five years.

Boys continued to earn more A*, with 8.5 per cent achieving the very top grade – although this is down from 8.7 per cent last year, contrary to some predictions.

Girls' results also dropped, with 7.7 per cent getting an A* compared to 7.8 per cent in 2015, meaning the gap between the two sexes has narrowed to 0.8 percentage points from 0.9. Including A grades, girls continue to slightly out-perform their male counterparts, with 25.9 per cent for girls compared to 25.8 per cent for boys.

The overall pass rate – those achieving grades A* to E – remained at 98.1 per cent.

It came as early figures from admissions body Ucas showed a record number of almost 424,000 A-level students placed in UK higher education as of midnight – up three per cent on last year.

Many tuition fees currently stand at £9,000 a year. The increase in admissions includes a rise of 11 per cent in the number of EU students placed at university – the highest number recorded.

UK 18-year-olds from the least advantaged backgrounds are seven per cent more likely to be placed than in 2015, although the most advantaged young people are still two and a half times more likely to be accepted into higher education.

Schools Minister Nick Gibb said: "It's hugely encouraging that this year sees a record 424,000 applicants already securing a place at one of our world-class universities, with increasing numbers from disadvantaged backgrounds gaining a place as well."

Mathematics remains the most popular subject, accounting for 11 per cent of all entries, followed by English and biology.

The decline in students taking modern foreign languages continued, the Joint Council for Qualifications (JCQ) data showed, although there was an increase in students receiving the top grades.

Students jumping for joy over A-level results

SCHOOLS and colleges across Sandwell scored some of their best-ever A-level results.

There were jubilant scenes throughout the borough as nervous teenagers gathered to find out their marks.

There was a 100 per cent pass rate for students at Barr Beacon School in Aldridge.

Executive headteacher Dame Maureen Brennan said: "Results like these do not just happen and we know that every grade represents countless hours of hard work on the part of the students, their parents and our staff."

Tom Castles, aged 18 from Great Barr, achieved 4 A*s and now 'can't wait' to start his physics degree at Durham.

Bristnall Hall Academy in Oldbury celebrated improved A-level results with 100 per cent of pupils gaining two or more passes, up by seven per cent from last year, and 80 per cent achieving three or more A-level passes. Ormiston Forge Academy in Cradley Heath had 63 per cent earning three or more passes, a four per cent increase on last year.

Accepted

The large majority of students who have applied to university have been accepted to study the courses they wanted.

A record number of students at Ormiston Sandwell Community Academy, where the A -level pass rate was 100 per cent, have been accepted to university.

Stuart Bathurst Catholic High School in Wednesbury also had a 100 per cent A*-C pass rate.

Lois Guy-Hickson, aged 18 from Walsall, exceeded what she needed, earning 2 A*s and 2 As. She said she is 'excited' to read medicine at the University of Nottingham.

At Pool Hayes Academy in Willenhall the percentage of students getting A * to B grades rose from 27 per cent to 43.6 per cent. The number of pupils gaining two or more A*to E grades or equivalent remained at 100 per cent – above the national average.

Among those who secured a place at university is Lewis Soars who will be studying law at De Montford after achieving an A, B and C.

Principal Luke Baker said: "We will have more of our students than ever before going to University in September and beginning the next stage of their life-long learning journey. I am delighted for them and wish them all the very best for their future wherever their journey takes them.

There were also plenty of smiles all round at Wood Green Academy in Wednesbury. Among the students celebrating success was 18-year-old Callum Cavell, from Wednesbury, who is going to study at the University of Birmingham.

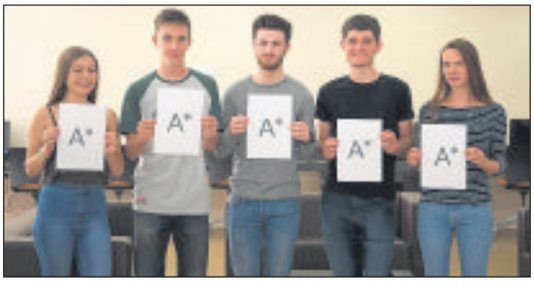
He said: "I achieved three As in maths, physics and geography which I'm really pleased about. I'm looking forward to starting university in September, it has been two years hard work."

Staff and students at Ace Academy in Tipton celebrated a 'fantastic set of results'.

They included 18-year-old Nadia Khan, from Tipton, is off to study at Aston University after achieving three distinction stars and a distinction in health and social care and travel and tourism. A 100 per cent pass rate was also recorded at Ormiston Shelfield Community Academy.

Pruthvi Padhinu, 18, from Walsall, will be going to study sports therapy at Coventry University in September and achieving an A* in PE and two Bs in business studies.

From left, Kai Brannigan-Fleet, Callum Cavell, Megan Edwards, Courteney Price, Shamsun Nahar and Pruthvi Padhiar.



Celebrating their A*s are students from Barr Beacon School, from left, Beth Lomax, Ben Cooper,Tom Castles, Dan Sheasby and Lois Guy-Hickson

Drugs baron may lose his car to pay off £50,000

A DRUGS kingpin is to be stripped of his flash car and illegal drugs cash after an investigation by police. Cocaine dealer Paul Clarke from Walsall must pay back more than £50,000 of his ill-gotten gains or face more time behind bars.

The 32-year-old was jailed for six years for possession with intent to supply cocaine and money laundering at Wolverhampton Crown Court in January.

Detectives then launched an investigation to recover 'dirty' money. They found just over £52,000 of available assets – including cash, an Audi Q7 and Peugeot van. At a proceeds of crime hearing at the same Wolverhampton court, Clarke was told he must repay the amount within three months or serve another year in custody – meaning he will need to sell property.

Acting Det Sgt Yvonne Barwani, from the force's economic crime unit, said: "Clarke did not hide his supposed wealth by driving around in flash wheels. After Clarke's drugs empire was busted by officers we then set about recovering his ill-gotten gains."

Clarke, of Cresswell Crescent, Bloxwich, had been stopped by officers in the Mossley area on October 16 last year in a van which contained more than £70,000 of cocaine.

A search of his home address also recovered more Class A drugs and over £17,000 in cash. He was also charged with driving whilst disqualified driving, having no insurance and having no driving licence.

Wire flier Janice in fundraising bid

A MOTHER-OF-TWO is to undertake an extreme and challenging sponsored zip wire run in aid of charity.

Janice Stirrup, from Oldbury, will travel to Bethesda in Snowdonia where she will take on the fastest zip wire in the world, reaching speeds of between 85 and 105 miles per hour. Janice undertakes a sponsored challenge each year in memory of her late husband, Geoff who died six years ago.

She is also a member of St Hilda's Church, Warley Woods which has chosen Sandwell Young Carers as its local charity for this year. More information is available at www.sandwellyc.com

To sponsor Janice visit https://localgiving.org/charity/sandwellyoungcarers/ and type Janice Stirrup into the search box.

Gospel choir set to raise church roof

A GOSPEL choir concert will be held at St Hilda's Church in Smethwick on September 10.

Tickets are £5, and £2.50 for those aged under 16, Refreshments will be available. For more details call 0121 533 4521 or 0121 544 8973.

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Delusional illness led to woman taking life

A WOMAN who suffered from a delusional illness was found dead at her Sandwell home by police after friends and medics became concerned about her safety, an inquest heard.

Marie Challinor, also known as Marie Palmer, of James Road, Great Barr, had been treated for a depressive illness. At times she believed she was being watched by neighbours and the police. The inquest, in Oldbury, heard that her condition was largely controlled by medication but lapsed when she failed to take it.

Between October 2013 and January 2014 she was sectioned under the mental health act after talking of trying to starve herself to death. Efforts were made to support the 50-year-old in the community with regular checks and visits from herself and mental health workers. But on May 27, her partner contacted the GP surgery voicing concerns that she had not responded to his texts or calls.

A psychiatric nurse visited her the same day and reported that Ms Challinor had made a golfball-sized hole in the window with a hammer. Later after more fears, police forced entry, finding her dead in bed.A suicide note was also found. A post mortem confirmed she died on June 3 of an overdose of prescribed drugs. Black Country coroner Zafar Siddique said no evidence of neglect by the health services was found. He concluded: "Although Marie was being supported, her delusional symptoms had returned with some vigour and she took her own life."

Indian visitors get sports tips

COACHES and sports scientists from India have teamed up with experts at the University of Birmingham to learn how their athletes can boost their performance, following Team GB's outstanding Olympic success.

The 25-strong party includes 'India's fastest man' – 100 metres national record holder and former Olympic athlete Anil Kumar Prakash, who is now an athletics coach.

The group will spend two weeks exploring how they can combine coaching and sports science techniques.

The university saw student Lily Owsley and alumna Sophie Bray win gold in the women's hockey, whilst alumnus James Rodwell scooped silver with the Rugby Sevens – part of Team GB's record haul of 67 medals.

Park runners aid heart charity

NEARLY 900 runners took part in the Helping Hearts family 5km run in Perry Park, Birmingham. Sunday's run helped raise money for Heart Research UK and is part of a series of 5km runs being held for the charity.

Firefighter dies suddenly on holiday

Firefighter John Sale

A WEST Midlands firefighter who served in the Black Country has died suddenly on a family holiday, it has been announced.

Tributes are being paid to watch commander John Sale, a fire officer at Canley Fire Station in Coventry.

Mr Sale, who was in his early 50s, suffered a heart attack on a holiday in St David's in Wales, he was taken to hospital and later died.

West Midlands Fire Service said he joined as recruit in 1994, serving around the region, including at Walsall and Wednesbury stations.

Fire stations flied their flags at half-mast as a mark of respect to Mr Sale, who is survived by his wife Liz, and two children, Kate and George.

His station commander, Robert Mair, said today: "He was always looking at ways of improving the service and held quality training at the top of his agenda. John had previously spent 10 years in the RAF, and also had a career break to spend several years living and working in Australia with his family, Liz, Kate and George.

"John was a true family man at heart who loved the open-doors, walking, climbing, windsurfing and walking his dog. He had many a good adventure with his best friend, watch commander Dave Smith, who said: "I have been overwhelmed by the amount of messages I have received from friends in the fire service looking back on John's life with so much respect and admiration for him.

"John will be sorely missed by all that knew him."

Chief fire officer Phil Loach added: "John was an extremely capable fire officer, much respected by his colleagues and friends."

Call to pull the plug on buskers at town centre

NUISANCE buskers could be forced to face the music as new council powers to pull the plug on noisy street performers are considered.

More than 150 people have signed a petition calling on Sandwell Council to take action against one street musician in Wednesbury town centre, who has been driving shoppers and traders mad with his amplifier and blaring backing CDs.

Now the authority is considering getting tougher on buskers across the borough with stricter rules and powers to move on unwanted performers.

Among the businesses to have signed the petition about the busker in Union Street is Walker Meats manager Jason Farquhar, aged 45. He said: "The way he sings and the noise he makes, it is horrendous.

"After listening to that for four, five, six hours, it just gets you down. I've told him before that I will throw a bucket of water over him. It just sounds like whining."

Another shopkeeper, who asked to remain anonymous, added: "He is a nuisance. He is loud. He is rude. I think it does put customers off and I think the council should take action against buskers." However, not every shop in the town has lost their patience with the singer.

Speakers

Janet May, 54, from Christine's Cards on Union Street, said: "It doesn't bother me. I haven't signed the petition. If they come or go it doesn't make a difference to me."

Yet after hearing concerns from many town centre businesses, the petition was put forward by Labour councillor for the Wednesbury South ward Pam Hughes, and is now being considered by the council. Councillor Hughes said: "This particular busker in Wednesbury town centre is quite loud and uses speakers.

"More than150 signatures have been collected in a petition. It will now be considered to see if we can take it further for enforcement. Sandwell Council doesn't have a policy for stopping buskers in the town centre. But he has been there for a good 12 months, and it is upsetting local businesses."

A West Midlands Police spokesman said: "If it is a noise nuisance issue it will be council-led. But the police do have powers that we can use if we deem it necessary to do so. These include issuing public order offences." The matter is now being investigated by council officers.

Star Spielberg on set in the city

Steven Spielberg in Digbeth directing Ready Player One. Picture courtesy of BBC Midlands Today

LEGENDARY movie director Steven Spielberg is in Birmingham filming a new futuristic sci-fi thriller.

The Oscar-winning director looks to be keeping a low profile as he films in Digbeth for the science fiction thriller Ready Player One, based in the year 2044.

Snapshots of the director captured on the film set this week have been circulating on social media. Filming was taking place outside the Ashton Engineering company, based on Floodgate Street, with props including a retro van placed close by, opposite graffiti-covered gates.

Security was on hand to close the section of road immediately around the filming and signs were in place for anyone looking to pass through the area. The Academy Award-winning director was snapped running around the set and advising cast members.

His latest film, due to be released in 2018, tells the story of the creator of a massive multi-player online game called The Oasis, who releases a video before his death, challenging players to find his 'Easter Egg'. Britain's second city was used for another high-profile movie in May, when gunfire erupted on the city's streets along with car crashes during filming of Kingsman: The Golden Circle.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Hoops of joy for business top 100

A BLACK Country company has been named among the 100 small businesses in the UK to be celebrated by Small Business Saturday. The campaign leads up to the UK's dedicated day for small businesses on December 3.

A hula-hoop dance and fitness school in Oldbury called Spinsonic Entertainment has been shortlisted.

Rachel Conlisk, the owner, is a hula-hoop performer and teacher, who sells handmade adult fitness and dance hoops online and at community events and festivals. She teaches hoop dance and hoop fitness classes.

Woman fatally wounded named

THE woman who died after being hit by a car on a busy Walsall road has been named.

Mavis Storey was just yards from her home when she crossed the junction of Bloxwich Road and Leamore Lane shortly before midday on Saturday, where she was hit by a silver-coloured VW Golf.

The 88-year-old was taken to Queen Elizabeth Hospital in Birmingham with critical injuries but pronounced dead later that day. West Midlands Police is urging witnesses to get in touch on 101 quoting 1045 13/08.

Appeal made as van set on fire

A POLICE appeal has been made after a van was set on fire in Walsall.

The incident happened on Victoria Road in Pelsall on August 9.

It is understood that a flammable liquid was poured on to the windscreen before it was set alight at around 11.05pm. The suspect approached the van from Pelsall High Street and left in the same direction.

Officers are appealing for witnesses to contact Det Con Genna Allen on 101.

Cygnets petition hits 4,400 signatures

A PETITION calling for action to protect cygnets in the borough has now gathered 4,400 signatures.

It was launched after an 'impatient' driver mowed down cygnets who were trying to cross the road at Stubbers Green in June prompting outrage among members of the public who reacted online.

Some people are calling for speed cameras to be put in place on the road, while others are expressing their dismay at the incident.

Macmillan fundraiser

A FUNDRAISING event for Macmillan Cancer Support will be held in Aldridge next month.

It will be held on Tynings Lane from 11am until 3pm on Saturday September 10.

There will be coffee and cakes, a tombola, a raffle and bric-a-brac stalls.

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THE BEST OF PETER RHODES

AND off to the hairdresser's where the lad in the next seat is telling the barber how to turn him into a Peaky Blinder. Razor-cut up the neck, clippers up the back of the head and a mop of unkempt hair to top it off. It is a shame no-one has told him that he's never going to look like a Peaky Blinder because he hasn't got a face like Cillian Murphy.

Sure enough, the lad emerges from the barber's looking nothing like a 1930s Birmingham gangster but resembling a roughly-uprooted carrot plant. There are a lot of them about.

WHY so many daft haircuts? Presumably so that when the kids report for school next month they can fulfil that ancient English tradition of being sent home again. You can feel it in the air like the gathering chill of autumn. Stupid kids with stupid haircuts and stupid parents bleating about their human rights. Another school year approaches and with it the old, old question. Who'd be a teacher?

THE independent inquiry into child abuse now has its fourth chairwoman, Alexis Jay. It has yet to hear a single word of evidence and could last for up to 12 years. I cannot help wondering how long the late, great News of the World would have taken to interview the witnesses and name and shame the guilty. Six months max?

OWN up. Did you not punch the air with joy at the report of a judge subjecting a thuggish defendant to a taste of his own foul language? "You're a bit of a ****," John Hennigan told Judge Patricia Lynch at Chelmsford Crown Court. "You are a bit of a **** yourself," replied the judge. "Go **** yourself!" exclaimed Hennigan. "You, too," responded the judge.

So far, so good. A fat slob who racially abused a woman and her children gets sent down with some Anglo-Saxon language ringing in his ears. And then someone complained. They always do, don't they? In this case an unspecified number of complaints has been made to the Judicial Conduct Investigations Office. Judge Lynch may be disciplined.

And that will satisfy the sort of silly, dangerous people who believe that justice is never fully served until a villain is exonerated and a law enforcer is punished. There is a word for such people but I'm running out of asterisks.

I TAKE the same view of allotments that I do of steam railways and vintage cars. I'm always glad that other people are looking after them.

Don't miss Peter Rhodes every Monday to Friday in your Express & Star

Rainbow colours to shine in force

POLICE in the West Midlands are to use rainbow-coloured lanyards to show their support of the lesbian, gay, bi-sexual and transgender (LBGT) community.

The move is part of an initiative by the force to increase equality. More than 500 officers and staff have signed up to a scheme, called Allies, in the past eight weeks.

Allies are those who do not identify as LGBT but believe that lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people should experience full equality in the workplace.

Police and Crime Commissioner David Jamieson said: "Allies are role models who create truly inclusive workplaces and send a strong message to the wider community. Some of the world's most successful organisations have introduced similar schemes. To increase their visibility I have funded the purchase of lanyards in the colours of the rainbow – the worldwide symbol of LGBT pride."

Membership is not mandatory and is in addition to the force's legal and moral equalities duties. The scheme is backed by the gay rights group Stonewall and managed by the force's LGBT Network.

Chairman of the group, PC Gary Stack, said: "I'm really very grateful to Mr Jamieson for his donation which we have used to buy 900 lanyards for Allies from a local business.

"Our ambition is to have 75 per cent of the entire workforce sign-up. And while we have a long way to go to reach that figure, 500 is a significant milestone particularly as we already have 390 regular Network members."

Trampoline centre bounces into action

Report by David Cosgrove

A £1 million trampoline arena has opened its doors to the public in Oldbury for the first time over the weekend.

The Flip Out activity arena welcomed its first customers on Saturday. The new facility has been created inside a disused warehouse on Churchbridge and has created more than 50 jobs in the process.

A 30-metre tumble track, pinball trampolines, gladiator beams, foam pits and high-low flip boxes all feature at the attraction.

General manager Mick Hickey said: "Flip Out offers something for everyone with an adults' trampoline arena, a separate area for the under-5s to bounce in, plus basketball slam dunk and penalty shoot-out areas for the older kids to enjoy.

"The high-low flip box area includes a police van, there's a special DJ area and even a double-decker bus, which is our VIP Party Room."

Customers will be able to take advantage of a series of special offers during the launch weekend, with entry at half-price.

Planners

Flip Out is open between noon and 6pm on Saturday and 9am and 7pm on Sunday.

The firm was given the go-ahead to move to Oldbury after planners at Sandwell Council gave the scheme the thumbs up back in April.

It was seen as an ideal location as it is close to the M5 motorway and within easy reach of Birmingham.

The growing company recently opened a centre in Stone, Staffordshire, and has similar attractions in Stoke and Bristol. Others are also planned for London and Manchester.

There has been a rise in popularity of the centres recently, with a new trampoline activity centre in Wednesfield having proved a big hit after opening last year.

Air Space was unveiled at Bentley Bridge retail park and features a similar layout of linked trampolines for users to bounce across.

The freestyle leisure business is owned by Tristram and Rebecca Mayhew, the duo behind award-winning forest adventure firm Go Ape.

The centre also includes a café bar with children's menu and free wi-fi, plus further party rooms for people of all ages.

The Mayor of Sandwell, Councillor Julie Webb, officially opened the centre at 9am on Monday.

Standard entry costs £10. For further information, visit www.flipout.co.uk/sandwell

A youngster tries out the facilities at the new £1 million trampoline arena Flip Out which has opened

Playing fields to be kept for public use

A PLAN to create an industrial park in the Black Country bringing around 100 jobs has been scrapped, it has been revealed.

A scheme to build factories in Kelvin Way, West Bromwich, will not go ahead after council bosses decided playing fields that were due to be built on should be kept for public use.

The proposal had proved controversial in the area, with residents objecting to the land being swallowed up by a developer. In May, bosses at Sandwell Council spoke of their desire to continue with the project and that a major developer remained committed to moving to the 160,000 sq ft site, but the situation has now changed following a shake-up of the authority's top members.

Regeneration boss Councillor Paul Moore said: "The new cabinet has looked again at the proposals to develop this site and decided it should be kept for the benefit of the local community. We are committed to bringing investment into our borough and to creating jobs, however in this case, the playing field and its current value to the community outweighs the earlier decision."

Initial plans revealed in 2013 were for a 57,000 sq ft production facility for the design and manufacturing of Jaguar Land Rover engine parts.

Warning to check out on licences for carriers

RESIDENTS having work done on their homes and gardens this summer are being reminded to check anyone they employ has a waste carrier licence.

Companies and individuals who take away rubble, garden rubbish, old bathroom fittings and other large items must be signed up to the scheme to legally dispose of waste.

Unscrupulous traders who aren't signed up to the scheme often dump the rubbish instead of disposing of it responsibly. Traders who transport waste and do not have a licence can be fined up to £5,000.

Leader of Sandwell Council Councillor Steve Eling said: "The rules are there to prevent fly-tipping.

"Householders may not know that if the person they employ to take away their rubbish dumps it illegally, the householder themselves could be fined. We don't want to fine residents, but it's the law. If you're having rubbish taken away, ask to see the trader's permit and check they have made arrangements to legally dispose of your waste. And if they are not registered, do not use them – it's your responsibility to check.

"There's also a risk that unlicenced waste carriers are untrustworthy in other ways – we have seen some individuals who didn't have licences rip off elderly people by massively overcharging for the job they were doing as well as not having a licence."

To find reliable traders, check out the council's Tradewell register – www.traderregister.org.uk/sandwell

Jail for man in fight with knife

A MAN who slashed a drinker's throat with a Stanley knife during a fight in a Birmingham pub has been jailed for 10 years.

James Lee lashed out with the blade at Erdington High Street pub The Cross Keys on June 3, severing his 41-year-old victim's carotid artery and leading to 'catastrophic' blood loss.

Doctors later said the man – who had earlier been punched by an associate of Lee – would have bled to death had he not received swift medical attention by paramedics and customers.

Builder Lee, from Stechford, was knocked unconscious during the fight. He pleaded guilty to wounding with intent to cause grievous bodily harm and at Birmingham Crown Court he was jailed for 10 years and handed an extended licence period of four years.

Electric up for screen award

THE oldest working cinema in the Uk has been nominated for an industry award. The Electric Cinema in Station Street, Birmingham, is in the running for the cinema of the year award for cinemas with under 24 screens.

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Council in form alert for voting registration

SANDWELL residents are urged to look out for a form in the post to check they're registered to vote in elections and referendums.

The council's elections team has sent forms to every household in Sandwell. The council has to do this by law – and all people need to do is confirm the details for their household are correct or update them.

This can easily be done online, by phone, text or post – just follow the instructions on the form. Young people aged 16 and 17 are also encouraged to register now – ready for when they turn 18 and become eligible to vote.

Councillor Steve Trow, Sandwell Council's cabinet member for core council services, said: "It's really important to check you are registered to vote so your voice is heard.

"Next year will see the first election for a 'metro mayor' for the West Midlands. If you're not registered to vote, you won't be able to vote in that or any other election or referendum. Remember that not being registered can also affect your credit rating.

"Look out for the form in the post. There are lots of quick and easy ways to respond. Please reply online, by freephone or by text if you can as this will save time for everyone.

"I would also ask you to respond as soon as you can after receiving the form. This will save us time and money by not having to send reminders and chase up responses."

For any questions, please email electoral_services@sandwell.gov.uk or call 0121 569 3244.

Advice on hand following exams

A TEAM of expert advisers will be on hand to discuss with Sandwell students the implications of their examination results over the next few days.

Sandwell Connexions Careers Advisers are getting ready to help young people during what is a "worrying time" for some students and parents.

Students who may not have got the grades they expected or decide against their original career plans can attend special sessions to discuss their futures. Young people are invited to use the Exam Results Service which will be available at Sandwell Council House, Oldbury, between 10am and 4pm, until August 31 (excluding weekends).

Appointments can be booked with advisers on 0121 569 2955.

85pc of firm's flights on time

BUDGET airline Ryanair, which operates at Birmingham Airport, said that 85 per cent of its 62,000 flights in July arrived on time. It was down from 90 per cent last July, due to air traffic control issues and bad weather.

Rep returns with Joe Orton farce

FOLLOWING on from its successful finale – The 39 Steps – for its 77th season, Oldbury Rep starts up anew kicking off with a Joe Orton play.

What the Butler Saw will mark the start of the 78th season from September 10-17, set in a doctors surgery, it is a traditional farce, with a difference.

This is followed by the classic tale of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde, in an atmospheric and chilling production running from November 5-12.

January sees the ever-popular traditional panto take over the theatre when Dick Whittington strolls into town looking for streets paved with gold but only finds the evil King Rat. This runs from January 6-16. People are advised to book early for this production as tickets soon sell out.

The rep's spring 2017 production is Confusions by Alan Ayckbourn. Five short plays are linked by a common theme of human emotions and dilemmas in a brilliant piece of theatre by a master playwright and can be seen on stage from March 4-11.

This is followed by Anthony Shaffer's classic whodunit, Sleuth. The production runs from May 6-13.

Meanwhile, the season finale is Charley's Aunt, a truly classic farce of love, deception and mistaken identity by Brandon Thomas, running from July 8-15.

Theatre ticket prices will remain unchanged for the season and following extensive refurbishment of the studio/rehearsal room, Studio Productions is making a welcome return.

The first production is The Woman Who Cooked Her Husband by Debbie Isitt, a little confection for those who like their humour rich and black, and will be served up from October 5-10.

Tickets can be obtained by phone or in person from the box office on Monday evenings from 7.30pm, and on the Friday prior to opening night from 7.30pm, and every night of the production from 7.00pm . Tickets are priced at £10.00 with the usual concessions at £9.00 with a special price on Monday and Tuesday evenings of £8.00 (no concessions). Panto prices are£11.00 (£10.00). Studio productions are £8.00 and Cinema tickets are just £4.00. Box Office can be contacted on 0121 552 2761. And you can now book online at www.oldburyrep.org

Borough jobless on rise despite national trend

THE West Midlands bucked the national trend of a fall in unemployment in the run-up to Britain's vote to leave the EU – with Sandwell seeing more people claiming jobless benefits.

The total out of work in the region was 173,000 for the three months to June – 18,000 up on the previous quarter – the equivalent of 6.1 per cent of the workforce.

The number claiming Jobseeker's Allowance and other unemployment benefits in the region also rose across the West Midlands in July. The total claiming was 82,035 (2.3 per cent of the working population) – 2,810 up on June.

In Sandwell the number claiming rose by 135 to 7,155 (3.6 per cent), with neighbouring Walsall up by 200 to 4,785 (2.8 per cent). Wolverhampton was up 195 to 6,645 (4.2 per cent) and in South Staffordshire there was a rise of 20 to 685 (one per cent).

Nationally there was a record number of people in work in the April to June period. The employment rate reached a record high of 74.5 per cent, with 31.8 million people in work, 172,000 more than the previous quarter.

A total of 1.64 million people are unemployed - a fall of 52,000 over the quarter and 207,000 down compared with a year ago, giving a jobless rate of 4.9 per cent.

The national claimant count, fell by 8,600 to 763,000 in the period after the Brexit vote.

The number in work in the West Midlands for the quarter was 2.66m, 12,000 more than the previous quarter and 65,000 ahead for the year.

JobCentre Plus business development manager for the Black Country, Gerry Lyng, said the trend for unemployment in the region was still downwards with more jobs continuing to be created. "At the moment it is mainly retail jobs that are coming on stream such as the 200 recently announced at Gallagher Retail Park, Wednesbury," he added.

Mr Lyng said that the creation of apprenticeships was having a positive impact on reducing youth unemployment in the Black Country.

Minister for Employment, Damian Hinds, said: "These record-breaking figures show that there are more people in work than ever before, which is great news as we build a Britain that works for everybody. In the West Midlands there's a record 2.66 million people in work, a rise of 65,000 in the last year alone."

Families go wild for pyjama party

Children listen to stories during the evening of nature activities at RSPB Sandwell in Great Barr

THE RSPB Visitor Centre at Sandwell Valley reached capacity as more than 100 people turned out for a Big Wild Pyjama Party.

The event, put on by Creative Black Country, saw a medley of animated short films, nature trails, storytelling and marshmallow-toasting.

Alex Sharrod, Visitor Experience Officer at RSPB Sandwell Valley, said: "Our first evening Pyjama Party here at RSPB Sandwell was a great success, over 100 guests joined us for our pre-RSPB Big Wild Sleepout event. Families enjoyed stories from author Ian Billings and local storyteller Cath Edwards."

The Big Wild Pyjama party acted as a warm-up to RSPB's annual Big Wild Sleepout, now in its fourth year. James Harding-Morris, of the RSPB, said: "Spending time as a family in nature is something special – whether it's camping out under the stars, seeing your first hedgehog or building a den. The Big Wild Sleepout is the perfect opportunity for children and families to break free of the norm."

Daniel and Matthew Hankinson

NEWS IN BRIEF

Boy in collision with bus dies

A BOY has died after being hit by a bus in Birmingham. The eight-year-old was cycling along Wilton Road, Erdington, at around 3.15pm last Tuesday when the collision happened.

Emergency services were called and paramedics treated the boy who was taken to hospital with critical injuries, but he died later that day.

The driver of the bus was spoken to at the scene and officers continue to make inquiries into the crash.

Sgt Chris Ridge, from the force's collision investigation unit, said: "The road is a really busy road and we are sure that there are a number of witnesses who have not yet come forward." Anyone with information should contact the collision investigation unit on 101.

Bosses hiring boomerangers

RESEARCH from recruitment specialists Robert Half UK, which has an office in Birmingham, reveals that organisations in the UK are becoming more open to hiring boomerang employees – workers returning to a former employer.

A survey found 83 per cent of human resources executives report they are more accepting of boomerang employees than they were three years ago.

Only seven per cent are opposed to re-hiring former employees.

Also 36 per cent of HR directors have successfully re-hired someone who has left a role in their organisation.

Bright future for towpaths

NEW lights are to be installed along canal towpaths across Birmingham as part of a £250,000 project to brighten up the waterways. Some 250 worn out and broken lights will be replaced with new energy efficient LED bulbs.

The scheme, which is being run by the Canal & River Trust and Birmingham City Council, is part of a drive to increase cycling. John Harris, from the Canal & River Trust, said: "These lights were originally installed in the early 1980s and most of them now don't work very well or are broken. The new, low maintenance lights should last eight years before the bulbs need to be replaced."

Indian delegation's Birmingham visit

A DELEGATION from Gujarat toured Birmingham to promote India's westernmost state as an investment destination and to learn more about the West Midlands region.

The group of15 Gujarati business leaders from backgrounds including financial services, life sciences and advanced manufacturing, explored key attractions and areas in Birmingham such as the Jewellery Quarter, Digbeth and Snowhill and found out about the city's key business sectors.

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IN MY VIEW
with Mark Andrews

A sporting well done, but relieved it's all over

DRIVING home from work, my attention was drawn to three girls of about 20 lurking in the bushes of a busy country road with no footpath, staring at their phones.

Apparently it's called Pokemon. Which is strange, because I always thought poker mon was the bloke you call when the chimney's blocked.

■■■

ALSO, what is all this walking around with bottled water about? Is playing Pokemon really such thirsty work?

Everywhere you look, there seem to be teenagers wandering about with a bottle of Evian in one hand and their mobile in the other.

All I can say is they must have really strong bladders.

■■■

SO that's it for the Olympics, and once again the lads and lasses have done us proud. Finishing second, ahead of mighty China, is a remarkable achievement, and a welcome tonic after the abject failure of the England football team and the frustrating inconsistency of the cricket side.

But, whisper it quietly, am I the only one who is also a little relieved it is now out of the way?

Was the wall-to-wall coverage of minority sports really justified?

The other Friday, there was a horse trotting round a pound in circles. I assumed it was a warm-up, but it turned out to be the main event. Dressage they call it. I've seen more action at Crufts.

Then there's gymnastics. I know those taking part are terribly good, with a discipline and work-ethic to put many footballers to shame. But it's not a spectator sport, is it?

When I was at school gymnastics was what the unsporty kids did to avoid too much physical exertion. I loved it. Got a certificate and everything.

Most of, all, the news coverage has been ridiculous. I stopped watching the BBC breakfast news because the first 15 minutes of every bulletin was about pole-vaulting and the like.

As I said, well done to all who took part.

But can we get back to normal now? It's just that I just like my news bulletins to have a bit of, well, news in them.

■■■

LABOUR leader Jeremy Corbyn has been accused of being out of touch because he did not recognise Ant and Dec when shown pictures of the pair. Why?

There are lots of things you can criticise the beleaguered politician for, but if he has managed to avoid I'm A Celebrity, Britain's Got Talent, and Saturday Night Takeaway, then good for him.

Ant and Dec are the televisual equivalent of keg lager or cheap plonk.

Most of us have experienced them at some time or other, but it's not something to shout about.

The walking party which conquered Ben Nevis

Walkers raised £9,000 for the Dudley mayor's charities

Bert making his last climb up Ben Nevis at the age of 89

How Bert inspired us to walk up mountains

NATHAN BRIANT tells how the memory of Bert Bissell, the peace campaigner, will always live on, helping so many others

THE weather was poor but that didn't stop a party from Dudley commemorating a legendary peace campaigner from the town for the third consecutive year.

Legendary is a word often overused, but it is appropriate for Bert Bissell, whose life and work is not only commemorated in his home town but also 390 miles away, in Fort William in Scotland.

He took countless trips with young people, showing them Ben Nevis, the highest mountain in the British Isles. Fort William is the nearest town to the mountain. He was instrumental in maintaining links between Fort William, Dudley and Hiroshima, one of the two Japanese cities obliterated by an American atomic bomb at the end of the Second World War.

Memorial

In 1985, he unveiled a memorial to the links established between the three places.

And perhaps his most productive trip up Ben Nevis took place in 1945. It was Victory over Japan Day, or VJ Day, and Bert, who lived on Selborne Road, led a pilgrimage party from the Bible class to the summit and constructed a 'peace cairn' to commemorate the end of the Second World War. It is this which is immortalised by the trekkers.

And to recognise the impact he had on so many people's lives and his attitude towards world peace, 28 people from the Black Country walked the 10-mile round trip, with its incline of more than 4,000 ft, up the mountain recently to raise money for charities.

Councillor Steve Waltho said: "We kicked off in rainy conditions. There were about 20 of us and it was a battle to be honest – there are so few times when I have seen so much water [on Ben Nevis]. When we were there the conditions weren't good and it just made it more treacherous. I have got £300 to £400 from people from work. I would say we are going to exceed £5,000. It'll probably be much higher than that.

"We think it's just the real appeal of the event over three years. For three years myself, [Dudley MP] Ian Austin and [fellow Dudley councillor] Dave Tyler came together; Ian knows the Bissell family. The first year attracted 10 or 11 walkers; in 2015 there were 15 and this year it attracted the most ever."

He added: "The very first year we contacted a councillor up there. He's very interested in what we are trying to do up there. There are three stained glass windows moved from Dudley to Fort William [to mark Mr Bissell's contribution]."

"Bert was 96 when he died in 1998. He started the Bible club back in 1925 in Bicken Street. He is usually credited as being Dudley's first probation officer – even before probation officers existed. He used to take young people and set them on the right path. But he took a whole interest in world peace.

"And there is a peace cairn at the top of Ben Nevis, made by the groups of young people taken up there and of course Bert himself. He was an absolute phenomenon. I don't know of any other person who has the freedom of two different boroughs. He was recognised in Fort William and Dudley."

But despite Councillor Waltho's admiration, there is one regret he has – that he never got to meet Mr Bissell himself, never got to speak to him about his ideals. He attended a meeting in the mid-1990s at which Mr Bissell spoke, but he never met him.

Mr Bissell begun taking Bible classes up Snowdon in Wales then went to Ben Nevis for the first time in the early 1930s. It was there he formed a lifelong love for that range. He is a well-known figure in Fort William; he used to give talks to hundreds of schoolchildren.

The Highland Council's Councillor Thomas MacLennan said: "I'm 53 and the relationship with Dudley and Fort William was really strong. They came up again three years ago and Bert Bissell is well known in Fort William."

Such was the impact that when Mr Bissell talked at schools in the town, people remember them decades on.

Mr Bissell's family arrived in the Black Country in the 1920s from Yorkshire. Born in 1902, he was one of five sons, their father a Methodist minister. He helped young people for decades and the regular blood donor was rewarded for his service when he was awarded an MBE in 1959. His life is commemorated with a monument opposite Dudley Council House in Coronation Gardens.

Astley Blake, who now runs the Bible class Bert set up along with other campaigners Damian Corfield, Shaz Saleem and Steve Rayner and former Dudley police chief Richard Green, also took part.

Bert Bissell climbing Ben Nevis on November 11, 1972, to lay a wreath

Charities

The party included Dudley's Mayor Councillor Mohammed Hanif and other councillors Keiran Casey and Cathryn Bayton. They were also helped by National Express, who sponsored the climb. They provided a coach for the stretch from the Black Country to Scotland and back again – a journey of nearly 800 miles.

All funds raised this year will go to the Councillor Hanif's chosen charities for the year. They are the Friends of Alfie Johnson – which helps children with disabilities – the Dudley Centre for Inclusive Living and Diabetes UK.

The town legend was a friend of the Austin family and someone current Dudley North MP Ian Austin MP knew well as a child. Mr Austin said in June: "It goes to show the enduring legacy of Bert's work in the community."

* Donations in Mr Bissell's memory can be donated online at bertbissellmemorialwalk.co.uk

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number number. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

No democracy around here, I'm afraid

L WESTWOOD'S letter has raised a couple of points which need addressing. The writer believes that we live in a democratic country – I beg to differ. The media would have us to believe that is the case – but we are like sheep, controlled by shepherds, in my opinion the media and a Tory Government.

Yes, we were given the opportunity to vote in/out of Europe, but it seems to me that because the result does not suit the shepherds – the result does not count. 1.8m more people voted to exit the EU over the remain vote. But the powerful will continue to stall the exit in order to encourage another vote to remain – after all this government was elected on a 23 per cent vote.

As for our voting system being confidential – again I beg to differ. The confidentiality only applies to the rank and file of our society. I will happily donate £100 to a local charity if having been given the opportunity to check with the electoral office, that I could not only tell how L Westwood has voted over the years but anyone else.

PAUL AGG
Wednesbury

Grammar education not for all

MUCH is being said about grammar schools.

The worst thing I did was pass for West Bromwich grammar school in 1962.

Being good at figures and English, did not make me good at algebra and Latin.

I left with nothing and later in 2010 was diagnosed autistic; my brain excels at some things but is useless at others, and I can be socially uneasy.

I would have done better at a comprehensive where my weaknesses could have got help.

Ironically the grammar school prospectus had promised to nurture my talents; I wonder even now, if the school understood their own words.

Grammar schools have done well for many, however the entrance exam should test the whole spectrum which in 1962 it did not.

They have their benefits but one size does not fit all!

ROBERT WHITE
Wigmore
West Bromwich

Dismay at VCR now being left behind

I WAS most interested in Mark Andrews' comments in the Chronicle regarding the demise of VHS tapes.

I have used these tapes for many, many years, but my VCR has had problems lately which my TV repairman has been able to fix for the moment, but he tells me it is 'on its last legs', and I shall not be able to replace.

Instead, to record programmes, I shall have to buy an HD/DVD player.

Now, that's all very well, but how in the future shall I be able to see the boxed sets of old BBC dramas I have got, such as The Onedin Line, I Claudius, Upstairs Downstairs, Poldark (the old version which I much prefer to this modern one), as well as what shall I do with all the blank tapes I have? It is the same with the spoken word audio tapes which I have for many years been borrowing from my local library.

About 12 months ago, all the new spoken word stories were coming on CD, which is not so convenient to hear, as when I fall asleep the tape shuts off at the end and the next time I want to hear it, I just rewind to where I last remember, and carry on from there.

With CDs, when it gets to the end, it starts back at the beginning.

Why oh why must they keep changing things?

Progress, I suppose?

MRS A M TAYLOR
Oldbury
Sandwell

Sports cash misgivings

THE Olympics in Rio captured the imagination of the media, with quite a widespread coverage almost 24 hours daily. Reporter after reporter and presenter kept saying how well 'we' that's the GB team, were doing.

Millions upon millions has been spent on team GB from sponsorships, and of course Lottery funding, the money allegedly for good causes, and then there's the money Cameron and Major sidetracked from the national purse.

It's great to see the lesser fortunate claim a medal, we should encourage this and support those wanting to improve their sporting performances. But surely giving funding to the likes of professional cyclists, millionaire golfers, highly paid runners and multi millionaire tennis celebrities...is not on.

SHAUN HARRISON
West Bromwich

People do not care any more

OVER the past few years I have noticed that not only fly-tipping is on the increase but also full black bags and carrier bags are dumped at random. It's a disgrace, people just don't care anymore. I was so pleased when I heard about individuals being caught on camera for their crime.

More cameras should be in operation, it would be expensive but wouldn't the fines cover the cost? It needs to be done as it is getting worse and I for one hate to see the country going downhill, a country that was first class.

JUDITH FISHER
Tividale

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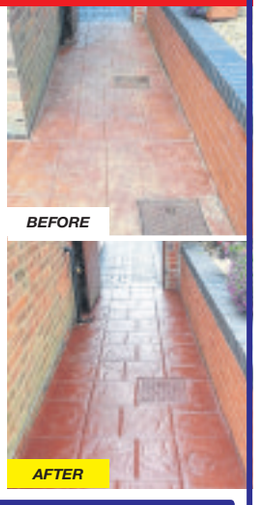

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£32m overhaul scheme for trading estate is passed

AMBITIOUS £32 million plans to overhaul a historic trading estate in Tipton and create more than 1,500 jobs have been approved by council bosses.

Proposals to flatten the majority of the existing buildings on the Vaughan Trading Estate in Sedgley Road East were unveiled in April. Now plans have been given the go-ahead after Sandwell Council planning committee voted unanimously in favour of it at a planning meeting at the town's Council House.

A planning application submitted to Sandwell Council by developer Dudley Unit Trust says overhauling the site would create 1,510 posts – 944 on site.

Bosses behind the scheme aim to create 430,000 sq ft of work space on land neighbouring the Thomas Dudley Foundry and CAB Autos.

Councillor Ian Jones, who worked on the former Vono site in the 1970s, believes the major investment will be a big boost to the area.

He said: "Anything that will bring employment and upgrade the estate I think should be welcomed. I used to work at the site and it's been in desperate need of an upgrade for some considerable time.

It's very pleasing that there is going to be investment going into that area, because it was home to a lot of local employers and provided jobs for an awful lot of people in the area before.

"You look at companies like CAB Autos, and you can tell how successful they are by the fact that the car park is always rammed. It will be good to have other businesses to supplement them in the area. Anything that can help the site become more usable and even better is something I welcome. Now I really hope that it gets delivered on time and within budget."

The planning report for the site states: "The proposed development has the potential to provide for 944 full-time equivalent jobs on site."

Tickets flying off shelves to see Scotsman

TICKETS to see the legendary Flying Scotsman at the Severn Valley Railway have sold out, the attraction has confirmed.

The iconic locomotive will be appearing at the historic railway line from September 21 to 26 as part of the Pacific Power event being held there .

The appearance of the Flying Scotsman has generated intense interest among fans and enthusiasts since it was announced it was coming to the SVR. When 7,000 tickets first went on sale in April the website crashed within minutes.

Within six hours of going on sale, half of the tickets available were snapped up. Eventually, tickets were only available by telephone, or by calling into the Severn Valley Railway offices in Kidderminster.

The Flying Scotsman was the first locomotive to travel at 100mph.

It will be appearing between Kidderminster and Bridgnorth during its visit.

Residents to enjoy home facelift

Carl Yale, partnering manager at Lovell, Councillor Kerrie Carmichael and tenants Trevor Moore and Irene Munday

A MULTI-MILLION pound facelift to transform a 1960s tower block is underway. Nelson House, in Tipton, will be upgraded in a £2.5million refurbishment.

It will result in new windows and doors, lighting, fire alarms and smoke detectors, balcony railings and a feature roof. The work will also see the creation of a larger car park and comprehensive landscaping. Construction company Lovells will be carrying out the build.

The Upper Church Lane property will be the 35th block of flats to be refurbished in the last 10 years by Sandwell Council.

Authority bosses hailed the revamp and said it was a long time coming.

Councillor Kerrie Carmichael, visiting the site, said: "It's good news that this work is finally going ahead. It's long overdue for the tenants here and we appreciate their patience. Not only will the renovation create better homes for the people living here, it will also lengthen the lifespan of and improve the appearance of the building.

"I'm extremely proud that we have managed to continue investing in our council homes despite such challenging financial times. In this case, the work was delayed due to Government cutting the funding for our housing investment programme and we have had to find the money ourselves.

"This is the 35th block that the council has refurbished over the last 10 years and this is part of an ongoing refurbishment programme for the borough's tower blocks."The work should finish in the summer of 2017.

Firm fined on inferno set to relocate

A COMPANY fined £270,000 for blunders that sparked a factory inferno so hot it melted plastic window frames on nearby houses, plans to move from the Black Country, it has emerged.

Alcohols, which has operated a business from Cresswells Road, Langley for 30 years, is finalising a proposed £12 million switch to a purpose-built factory in Rugby, Warwickshire.

The news was broken during the Wolverhampton Crown Court case on Thursday in which the firm admitted health and safety failures that put its staff and the general public at risk.

The massive inferno broke out when chemical fumes were ignited by static electricity as highly flammable ethyl acetate was transferred from one container to another without the earth cable being connected.

The blaze burned for 18 hours because valves on chemical tanks were corroded and could not be turned off, the court heard. It was so fierce that panels bent on parked cars and plastic fascias melted at nearby homes.

Mr Andrew McLaughlin, representing Alcohols, which has an annual turn over of around £22million and makes about £1.7million-a-year profit, disclosed: "The company is now planning to move to Rugby. This will cost between £12 million and £15million. There are no immediate plans to sell the Langley site."

Mixed age city choir seeks more singers

QUINTON Community Choir is looking for more people to join its ranks.

The mixed age choir has around 70 members aged eight to over 80 and performs a variety of pop, gospel and classical music as well as traditional songs from around the world. It was founded in 2006 to celebrate and encourage local talent. Rehearsals are on Monday evenings in school term time from 6.45pm to 8.15pm at St Boniface Church, Quinton Road West.

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Country show success despite wet weather

THE rain and wind did not dampen the spirits as people turned out to a two-day country agricultural and horticultural show at Sandwell Valley Country Park.

The event, on Saturday and Sunday, was the first of a series of events to replace the Sandwell Show.

Visitors were treated to farming demonstrations, animal racing, farm machinery exhibits, live music, a real ale bar, children's fun entertainment, countryside crafts and falconry displays.

There was also a market over both days of the event, on Saturday and Sunday.

Farm manager Melissa Underwood-Grattage, said visitors could enjoy events such as sheep racing and the chance to see farm machinery.

One of the new chicks at the event

Felix Underwood-Grattage, aged six

Jessica Dockrat, and Riley Davies

Clog maker Jeremy Attkinson

Enclosures

"It's great," she said. "It's a really good event showcasing our rare breeds and how we look after the country park."

David Dockrat, aged 58, from Oak Road, Walsall Wood, was at the event with his family, including fiancée Yvonne Mole, 49. He said: "I used to come when the Sandwell Show was on and it used to be rammed.

"It's still good that they have got things coming and spread over a few days."

Sally Skinner, outreach co-ordinator from Dudley Zoo was at the show with milk snake, Sybil.

She said: "We are trying to get into the community and get the name of the zoo spread.

"We have got three new enclosures this year and events to promote and we are giving out 'kids go free' vouchers so we are just raising awareness and answering questions that people have about the zoo." Mandy Gregory, 43, from Chapel Ash, Wolverhampton, partner Darren Wade-Smith, 44 and daughter Pepper Gregory, 23, had all travelled to the show.

Pepper said: "We are doing a thing where we take the alphabet and go and go to different places so we are ticking 's' off the list. "Mum wanted to see the cows. For me it was a bit of everything and for dad it's just getting out of the house. I think it's good that they are doing something and bringing something back to the park now the Sandwell Show has gone."

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Kicking off with a classic at auction

The football programme from the FA Cup clash between the Baggies and Birmingham City in 1931

A RARE programme from the 1931 FA Cup final between West Bromwich Albion and Birmingham City is set to go under the hammer. The programme was offered to Fieldings Auctioneers of Stourbridge during a valuation day and is expected to fetch between £200 and £300 next Saturday.

The game was Albion's third FA Cup triumph as they defeated Blues 2-1 in the all West Midlands affair at Wembley in front of a crowd of more than 92,000.

It is believed the programme will be particularly attractive to collectors due to its relatively good condition and the fact it dates from before the Second World War.

Two commemorative cup final handkerchiefs were also handed in, though these are more common. Andrew Mayall, from Fieldings, said its age made it an interesting piece.

The programme has been taped in places but remains in a good state of repair more than 80 years on.

The momento cost 6D and is headed 'Final tie of the Football Challenge Cup Competition'. It also contains a large advert for Bovril. Albion's two goals on the day were scored by club great William 'Ginger' Richardson.

Permanent long-stay parking is in pipeline

A TEMPORARY long-stay car park in West Bromwich could be made permanent under new plans – boosting town centre trade.

The five-year lease on the 157-space pay and display Edward Street car park, on the former Sandwell swimming baths, is set to expire.

Council chiefs have now submitted proposals to make the car park. Councillor Preet Gill said she welcomed the application, as it provided much-need spaces and is to the benefit of West Bromwich. If the car park was not there, it would 'cause a massive issue around parking', she added.

Councillor Gill said: "Having visited that area quite often it's clear how important that car park is - there's the town hall there, council buildings, a Gurdwara and the Freemasons.

"So if you look at what's around it there's quite a lot that would need to use that car park. I think it will give people confidence if it becomes permanent that there will be no further building on the site. It's very tight in that area for parking as it is, especially around the one-way system - so I think this is good for West

By David Cosgrove

Bromwich." The site is bordered by Lodge Road, West Bromwich Town Hall car park, Lombard Street West and Edward Street. It was previously occupied by the swimming baths and council offices.

When the baths were demolished a temporary car park was constructed and opened in April 2008 with 126 spaces. This was extended to 157 spaces when the council offices were later demolished.

A planning statement submitted as part of the statement describes the car park as 'essential' for the town centre. This states: "The site is essential to satisfy the current demand for town centre parking and reducing congestion on nearby residential roads."

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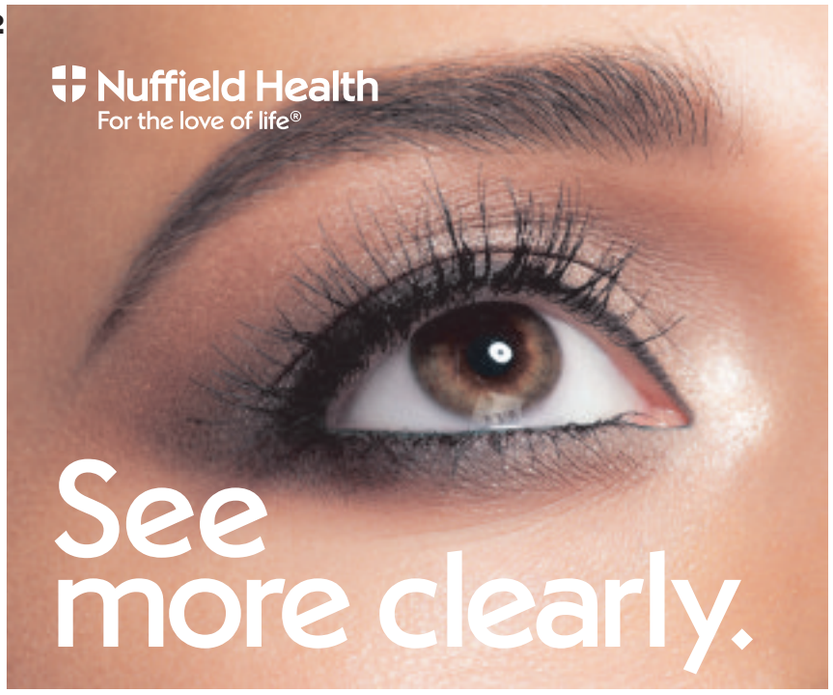

Nuffield Health Wolverhampton Hospital has a team of eye specialists that are experts in cataract removal, and laser eye surgical procedures. If you are experiencing problems with your vision from cataracts, and can't come to the hospital, then it will be useful to know you can make an appointment to see our consultant ophthalmologists at the **Northgate Medical Centre, Old Smithfield, Bridgnorth**. It is important to remember that this is not a 'walk-in' clinic - you will first need to be referred to us by your GP or optician who will make an appointment for your initial examination. Surgery will be conducted at our Hospital in Tettenhall.

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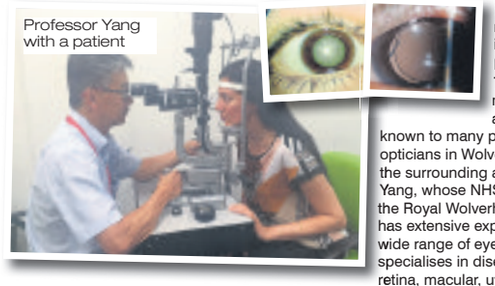
A cataract refers to a condition of the eye when the clear lens loses its transparency and becomes opaque or cloudy. It reduces or blocks the entry of light into the back of the eye causing blurring and loss of vision.

It is usually caused by ageing and most commonly affects individuals over 50 years old. Less commonly, cataracts can be caused by other eye conditions which can occur in any age group. Cataracts are still the leading cause of blindness and visual loss worldwide but fortunately, in almost every case, vision can be improved and restored to a good level using modern cataract surgery techniques.


Professor Yang with a patient

Left, a cataract in an eye and right, with a lens implant

Patients who are suffering visual problems and are suspected of having cataracts by their optician or GP are usually referred to the hospital eye service for further examination. The ophthalmologist performs a full eye examination for diagnosis of cataracts and for making the clinical decision whether cataract surgery should be performed.

Nuffield Health Wolverhampton Hospital provides a dedicated hospital eye service for diagnosis, treatment and surgery for cataracts and other eye conditions including glaucoma, age related macular degeneration, diabetic eye disease, squints, corneal diseases and refractive conditions requiring laser correction surgery.

Recently, the NHS has commissioned a contract with Nuffield Health Wolverhampton Hospital to provide an eye clinic in Bridgnorth for patients in the Shropshire area. This twice a month service initiated by consultant ophthalmologist, Mr Bal Manoj will soon have an additional consultant, Professor Yit Yang. Both Mr Manoj and Professor Yang are very experienced consultant ophthalmologists, who have worked at the main Nuffield Hospital in Tettenhall, for many years and are well known to many patients and their opticians in Wolverhampton and the surrounding area. Professor Yang, whose NHS practice is at the Royal Wolverhampton Hospital, has extensive experience in a wide range of eye conditions but specialises in diseases of the retina, macular, uveitis and cataract surgery including teaching cataract surgery as well as performing surgery especially in difficult cases.

At the Nuffield Hospital, he has a skilled team of nursing staff and operating theatre technicians and has been performing high volume cataract surgery here for more than 15 years. To ensure a high quality service and completely painless experience with fast recovery to full visual potential after surgery, he uses a highly effective local anaesthetic technique combined with the most modern 'keyhole' phacoemulsification cataract extraction using an ultrasound device and an operating microscope.

Patients or members of the public are welcome to attend a free and informal, eye educational event on Thursday, October 6, at which Professor Yang will conduct a presentation on cataract surgery and on the general eye service at Nuffield Hospital. There will also be an opportunity for patients or members of the public to ask questions about the field of ophthalmology.

● ***To book a free place at the Open Eye event on October 6 hosted by Professor Yang at Nuffield Health Wolverhampton Hospital, please call 01902 267619.***

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Historians in plea to put record straight on hero

HE was the 22-year-old Walsall soldier shot at dawn for 'cowardice' during the First World War.

But now 100 years on since the execution of Lance Corporal Frederick John Hawthorne, military researchers have called for people to pay their respects to him on October 29.

Relatives and military veterans are being invited to join them when they visit the Shot at Dawn memorial at Staffordshire's National Memorial Arboretum.

The memorial remembers the British Army and Commonwealth soldiers executed after courts martial for desertion and other capital offences during the First World War – and LC Hawthorne was one of the original names on the memorial when it was completed in 2001.

The stakes of three more soldiers from the South Staffordshire Regiment, who were executed for mutiny, are due to be added to the memorial during a ceremony. It follows a campaign helped by The Chase Project military research group.

Richard Pursehouse, of the group, said they were also keen to find out more about him. He volunteered for service fought for two years including two major battles. "He should be recognised for what he was. I think he is a war hero."

LC Hawthorne was one of eight siblings who grew up at The Wharf in Aldridge and volunteered for service with the South Staffordshire Regiment in September 1914, facing two major battles during the Great War – at the Loos attack on September 1915 as well as the 46th Division's (North Midlands) failed assault at Gommercourt on the Somme in July 1916.

But later that month he was accused of refusing orders to provide covering fire for a 'wiring party' that set up defences in No Man's Land. He was sentenced to death within days.

The Shot At Dawn memorial to those soldiers who were killed by their

Lt-Gen Sir Thomas D'Oyly Snow, who was in command at the time

A British Army firing squad seen during the First World War

Hawthorne feared it was not dark enough to go out and they would be slaughtered by the Germans, stating it was 'bloody murder'.

Despite initially resisting he did eventually go out, however he arrived back separately from the wiring party who claimed not to see him. Hawthorn said he lost contact with the wiring group and had been delayed.

Nevertheless he was charged with 'when on active service, misbehaving before the enemy in such a manner as to show cowardice'. He was executed by a firing squad at 5.12am on August 11, 1916. In 1919, following the end of the First World War, the annual Army Act rescinded the right of Army Courts Martial to execute soldiers.

The ceremony at the National Memorial Arboretum will be held at 10am on October 29.

Police error on death led to family's delay

Caravan blown over on

The scene on the M5 northbound after wind overturned a caravan between Oldbury and West Bromwich. Credit: West Midlands Fire

MOTORISTS faced long delays on the M5 when a caravan was blown into the central reservation and ended up on its side.

A family travelling in the car towing the vehicle had a lucky escape when strong winds swept across the motorway.

West Midlands Police and West Midlands Fire Service both attended the scene of the crash, which took place on the northbound carriageway between Oldbury and West Bromwich. No-one was injured. Oldbury Fire Station tweeted a photo of the vehicle on its side across all three lanes. The crew posted: "A lucky escape for this family. Thankfully no-one hurt.

"The power of the wind turned this caravan over on M5 North." The caravan blocked three lanes of the carriageway between junction two at Oldbury and junction one at West Bromwich. West Midlands Police confirmed that they received a call to the incident at 12.06pm on Wednesday, and that no other vehicles were involved. As the clear-up continued there were reports of delays of up to an hour from junction three at Halesowen.

RELATIVES of a man found dead at home after taking prescribed drugs did not know of his death until nearly a week later, an inquest heard.

Paul Tomes, aged 54, from Winwood Road, Oldbury, had been living with a friend after leaving a hostel in Handsworth a few months earlier.

His body was discovered on September 17, yet Sandwell Coroners Court heard that West Midlands Police sent a notification of the death to an incorrect email – with Mr Tomes body still at the undertaker's nearly a week later.

Speaking about events following the death, Det Sgt Rob Bastin, from the homicide team at Harbourne Police station, said an 'administrative error' had been made. He added: "It was clear that the coroners office had not been informed in the right fashion and I was appalled that had happened. When it was looked into, the email had been sent by officers and was missing a dot in the email address."

In response, Senior Coroner Zafar Siddique, said: "I will be writing to the chief constable in regards to this matter due to the lateness of this death referral and the distress it caused the family."

The inquest heard that Mr Tomes had been discovered by his friend, Tristan Wells, and his partner after they returned to the house on September 17 at 4.30pm.

His body was found on the lounge floor with brown liquid and vomit present, showing he had been 'quite unwell'. It was revealed that several prescription drugs were found in Mr Tomes system and the house.

The cause of death given following a post mortem and autopsy was multi drug toxicity along with bleeding of the small bowel.

He had also been a recreational drug user in the past, taking heroine and cocaine.

Concluding a verdict of a drug related death, Senior Coroner Mr Siddique, said: "Having considered the facts it was clear that on the balance of probability Paul was leading a chaotic life. There was evidence of drug use so sadly this was a drug related death."

Sandwell age UK

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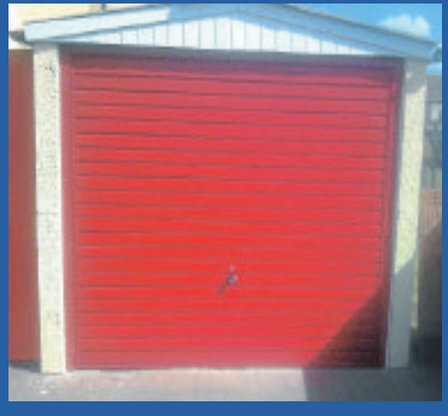

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Have a heart as big day approaches

Smethwick-based health guru Mel Carpenter writes:

SEPTEMBER 29 is World Heart Day and the World Heart Federation is asking everybody to pay attention to their hearts and start living healthier lifestyles.

I have five quick wins that you can introduce TODAY to help you avoid this killer disease. Cardiovascular diseases [CVDs] cause over 17 million deaths a year and many are preventable through lifestyle changes.

Most people know someone or have themselves been directly affected by heart disease and the saddest part is a lot of times it is avoidable by changing lifestyle habits.

Simple changes in diet by reducing your salt intake and eliminating processed foods from your diet and trying to get a couple of hours of exercise can make a huge difference. To help prevent heart disease there are five methods to change your lifestyle and take better care of your heart.

Mediterranean diet. A 2013 study showed the Mediterranean diet reduces the risk of coronary heart disease by 30 per cent.

Reduce salt. Too much salt can cause high blood pressure, which increases the risk of developing coronary heart disease. Check the salt content of any pre-packaged food you buy.

No processed foods. There are lots of hidden saturated fats, sugars and salts in processed food, fast food, and ready meals. I would strongly advise people to check the content of the ingredients of any food they buy and start cooking from scratch.

Quit smoking. Smokers are twice as likely as non-smokers to have heart disease with all the health issues it causes – it is the most important thing you can do for your heart.

Join a bootcamp. The heart is the most important muscle and just a small amount of intense exercise will keep it functioning properly. Workouts as little as 10 minutes a day can make a huge difference.

FOCUS ON SMETHWICK AND BEARWOOD

Reeling in Sikh history with snippets on view

A FILM-MAKER focusing on largely forgotten aspects of history in the Black Country has shared clips of his latest project with the public.

Billy Dosanjh was born and raised in Smethwick, and his love of the area and its rich cultural heritage has been the inspiration behind his films.

REPORT BY JUDITH

The 35-year-old's latest film looks at the migration of the Sikh community, an area he says is overlooked in local history.

Mr Dosanjh said: "I am really drawn to making sure that there is a properly recorded history of the migration of people that came over in the 1960s and 70s. There is a huge gap and a lot more work needs to be done."

His latest film, Blighty Now, looks at the migration of the Sikh community, and parts of the film were shown at Smethwick Library last Wednesday. "People there were very kind with what they said about the film. I was honoured to show it to them," he added.

It is now ready to go through post-production and once finished a date will be decided for it be broadcast on BBC4.

The film is a follow-up to his 2013 Arts Council-commissioned documentary, Year Zero: Black Country.

Mr Dosanjh has also enjoyed success with his self-shot film A Miracle in West Brom, which won the prestigious Satyajit Ray award, in honour of India's most outstanding film-maker, and was shortlisted at the annual Grierson Awards recognising the best new documentary films.

It was after his talents were spotted in a film about race riots that Mr Dosanjh went on to train at the National Film and Television School in Buckinghamshire. His family still lives in West Bromwich and the area remains central to his work.

He added: "I like to tell real stories about real people." He said he was delighted to be working on TV, not only on his film projects but also through directing strands on the BBC's Wonderland series and Channel 4's Unreported World.

Smethwick film-maker: Billy Dosanjh, with Ishvir Padda and Dylan Uppal, both from Walsall

Plays give food for thought

FOOD parcels were donated by audience members of a drama performance as part of a unique production. West Bromwich-based Drama and Some took to the stage at Thimblemill Library, in Smethwick.

Bollywood actress Kiren Jogi, from West Bromwich, took her role in Dance Home Arika as a young girl finding her identity after growing up in care. Birmingham-based Deborah McEwan took her role in the second play of the evening, Foodbankers.

Food parcels were donated to Smethwick Food Bank following the two shows. Group director Suzan Spence said: "It was a fantastic night."

The group is always looking for more people to get involved. Visit www.dramaandsome.com

Amazing year for Smethwick Totz

IT has been an amazing first academic year at Totz Zone Pre-School based in Smethwick serving the local community.

The firm started in September with one child and now has nearly 20 on its books.

A spokesman said: "Thank you to all the parents and grandparents that have supported us this year."

Totz Zone Pre-School still has places available for September 2016.

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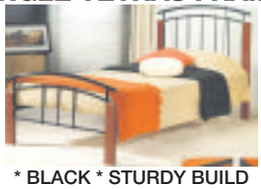

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A cracking shot of children enjoying VE Day – Victory in Europe Day – on Tuesday, May 8, 1945 in Gordon Street, Wolverhampton

Birmingham Street, Dudley, in the 1920s – another insanitary place. Thanks to Dudley Archives & Local History

North Street, Wolverhampton, in the early 20th Century – an area of bad-quality housing but strong neighbourhood loyalties. Thanks to Wolverhampton Archives and Local Studies

A time when WE mattered more than you or I, in the community

MEMORY LANE

By Professor Carl Chinn

WE live in a 'me and mine' world. The cult of the individual, of 'doing it for me', of watching out for myself, and of 'it's nothing to do with me' has been proclaimed from the highest level and has pervaded all aspects of society.

We spend our time looking out for ourselves, watching our backs, getting on with our own lives – and more and more we are on our own.

We live at the back of our houses and in our back gardens. Our front door step is used only as an access into our private space, not to stand upon and look out at the life of the street and engage with it.

We don't join clubs like we used to and we don't flock to the rec as once we did to play games of 20 a-side football.

Our eyes are turned resolutely away from the public sphere and focused instead on our own little world. We sit transfixed by texting on our mobile phones, we communicate with our computers, we play with hi-tech equipment, and we watch satellite television that tells us of goings on across the world when we know so little about what's happening around the corner.

And when we do go outside we head as fast as we can for our cars to place ourselves safely within an extension of our home.

We have become more insular and less neighbourly. This is a rapid reversal of the world in which so many of us grew up.

That was indeed a 'we and ours world' where everything was part of a pool into which everyone could dip.

That sense of mutuality was highlighted by the the Co-op, building societies and trade unions, but its roots lay firmly in the family. Very little was owned individually, everything belonged to each member, be they young or old.

Mothers and fathers worked not for their own benefit but for the wellbeing of the family as a collective unit and taught their children the same belief.

But it was not only the good things that were shared, so too were hardships – and hardships abounded in working-class England. If an old person had no fuel, someone would give them a bucket of slack.If a man was injured or killed in an accident at work, then the neighbours would pull together to help his widow and children get by.

Women, especially older women, were at the centre of this community action.

They found out what was happening through gossip. If a woman was ill, someone would always feed her kids and do her washing. If she was in labour, an old lady would come and help with the birth.

When someone died, another old lady would lay them out so that the family and neighbours could pay their respects, whilst yet another old lady would collect the money from the neighbours for the wreath.

And it was also respected old women who would arrange the charabanc trips to the country or the seaside and the street parties that celebrated the great events in the life of the nation, like VE Day and the Coronation of the Queen.

On Tuesday May 8, 1945, that day's papers carried the news that it was "VE Day Today". In the West Midlands, as elsewhere, VE Day was marked by the pealing of church bells, the relaying by loudspeakers of the King's broadcast speech at 9pm, parades of Civil Defence organisations, and, of course, street parties.

Overnight, men and women had happily hung up bunting and flags, and it seemed that the poorer the neighbourhood the more colourful and plentiful were the decorations that garlanded the streets.

As the preparations were made, they were accompanied by the bangs of fireworks that some people with foresight had saved from before the war – for there had been no public sale of fireworks for six years.

The day itself was a damp one, but not even the rain could mar the cheerfulness that abounded.

An atmospheric photo showing two women walking up Brown Street, Kates Hill, Dudley, in the early 1950s

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Warley Road, Rood End @ **5.30pm and 7.30pm**
Contact Kerrie 07923 129816

TUESDAY
OLDBURY
Warley Baptist Church,
Castle Road East, @ **9.30 am, 5.30pm and 7.30pm**
Contact Julie 07505 084916
OLDBURY
Church on the Rock,
Warley Road, Rood End @ **9.15am and 11.15am**
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West Bromwich Community Centre,
Gayton Road, @ **5.30pm and 7.30pm**
Contact Jodie 07886 426429
WEST BROMWICH
West Bromwich Leisure Centre,
Moor Street, @ **9.30am, 3.30pm, 5.30pm and 7.30pm**
Contact Pippa 07816 900149
WEDNESBURY
Woods Methodist Church
Coronation Road, Woods Estate, @ **5.30pm and 7.30pm**
Contact Karen 07547 515345
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Tipton Christian Church
Waterloo Street, **5.00pm and 7.00pm**
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Blackheath Central Meth Church,
High Street, @ **10.00am, 12.00pm, 5.00pm and 7.00pm**
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TIPTON
The Sportsman Pub (Separate entrance),
St. Marks Road, @ **7.00pm**
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OLDBURY
The Salvation Army Community Church,
Merton Close (off Pound Road) @ **7.30pm**
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TIVIDALE
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Tividale Road, B69 2LQ @ **5.00pm and 7.30pm**
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Newbury Lane @ **7.00pm**
Contact Claire 07539 950447
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Lea Brook Church Hall
Leabrood Road North @ **7.30pm**
Contact Linda 07902 079559
TIVIDALE
Ormaston Sandwell Community Academy
Lower City Road @ **7.00pm**
Contact Sarah 07875 445462
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Beverley Road @ **9.30am and 11.30am**
Contact Lisa 07514 607650
WEDNESBURY
St Bart's Church Hall,
Bttm Church Hill @ **9.30am**
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The Sportsman Pub (Separate entrance),
St. Marks Road, @ **9.00am, 11.00am, 5.30pm and 7.30pm**
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SMETHWICK
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Thimblemill Road @ **3.30pm, 5.30pm and 7.30pm**
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SMETHWICK
St Marks Church
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26 Rowley Village, B65 9AT **5.30pm and 7.30pm**
Contact Kenton 07982 408088

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Is an apprenticeship your next step? If you're aged between 16 and 24, an apprenticeship could be a great option for you.

Not only will you be earning, but you'll be learning on the job and getting a qualification.

An apprenticeship will boost your skills and your confidence, it will start you off on a career path that could change your life.

Apprenticeships are suitable for all sorts of people – whether you have recently studied for your A Levels or GCSEs, or if you've not been at school for a while.

As long as you're aged between 16 and 24, we can help set you on the right path with an apprenticeship.

Find out more about apprenticeships and how Sandwell Council can help you to get that foot on the ladder.

Twin sisters Kim and Chloe Gorton are Level 2 Health and Social Care apprentices

Molly is an apprentice at the council HQ crèche

Morgan Southall, 17, now has a full-time job

What is an apprenticeship?

An apprenticeship combines on the job training with nationally recognised qualifications – and puts money in your pocket. There are no course fees.

Sandwell Council has more than 40 apprenticeship vacancies available with more coming up all the time.

Some of these opportunities are working at the council and many others are for apprenticeships at local companies, charities and other organisations in Sandwell or nearby.

The council can help you get into a range of different apprenticeships.

CONTACT US

Web: www.sandwell.gov.uk/guarantee

Phone: 0121 569 2099

We have apprentices working in administration roles, in hospitality, warehousing, engineering, HR, working with children, health and social care, horticulture, construction and many more.

We also have apprentices working in council teams including our museums, in HR, grounds maintenance, highways and in our cemeteries – and we'll be looking for more apprentices to join the council over the next few years.

If you decide an apprenticeship is for you, you'll gain experience and you'll be working towards a qualification – and sometimes an apprenticeship can lead to a permanent job. We will also help and support you to develop and you'll gain valuable skills. A full-time apprenticeship will pay you around £125 a week.

Apprenticeships take from 12 months to four years to complete, depending on the level.

Interested? To see our vacancies and to apply online, see our contact details.

Do you need help finding a job?

If an apprenticeship isn't for you, the council can also help you find a full-time or part-time job with local companies in a range of industries.

Plus we can help you improve your skills and your chances of finding work.

We also arrange work experience and a range of other training courses and activities to help young people do something positive with their lives and move towards finding work.

Are you a business? Want to take on an apprentice or young employee?

The council could help pay their wages.

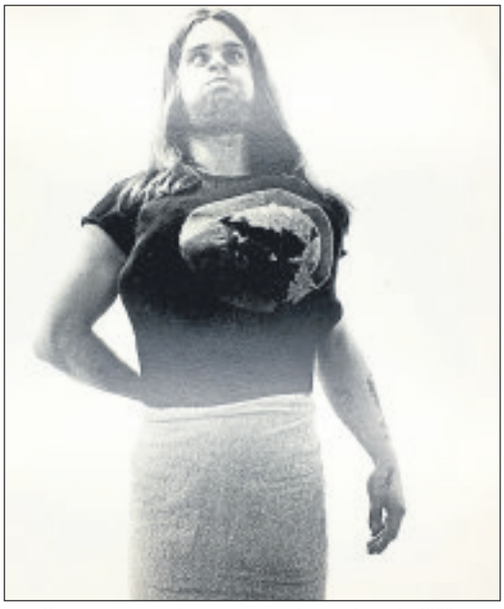
We're looking for local businesses interested in taking on apprentices and staff aged between 16 and 24.

Under the council's Sandwell Guarantee scheme, we can pay up to 50 per cent of a young person's wages for the first 12 months.

That could save your business more than £3,000.

We'll help you find a suitable young person and we'll also mentor them in the workplace.

To find out more,see our contact details.



Ozzy seen in playful mood sometime in the late 1960s

The young man about town seen on a shopping trip

A postcard from John Osbourne to his parents, while Earth were in Germany

A drawing of Ozzy which is part of the collection of memorabilia

A hat-wearing Ozzy larking about with a can of Coke

Ozzy Black to his roots

THE roots of legendary band Black Sabbath are revealed in artefacts expected to raise thousands of pounds when they go to auction next month.

As Ozzy Osbourne's band continue their final world tour, a collection of early and pre-Black Sabbath memorabilia, including postcards from John Osbourne, as he was then known, to his parents in Aston, are revealed for the first time.

Written when Ozzy was in the band Earth, the precursor to Black Sabbath, one postcard remarks how on a trip to Hamburg he had noticed a number of local attractions. He wrote: "There are thousands of strip clubs all over the place, I have met a rather nice German girl here [sic] name is Sylvia. We are going down rather well at the Star Club, incidentally it is the same club that the Beatles first made D BIG TIME."

All the artefacts date from between 1968 to 1973 and include Earth publicity posters, flyers, handwritten song lyrics, photos and the postcards. Others were also sent to his ex-wife Thelma.

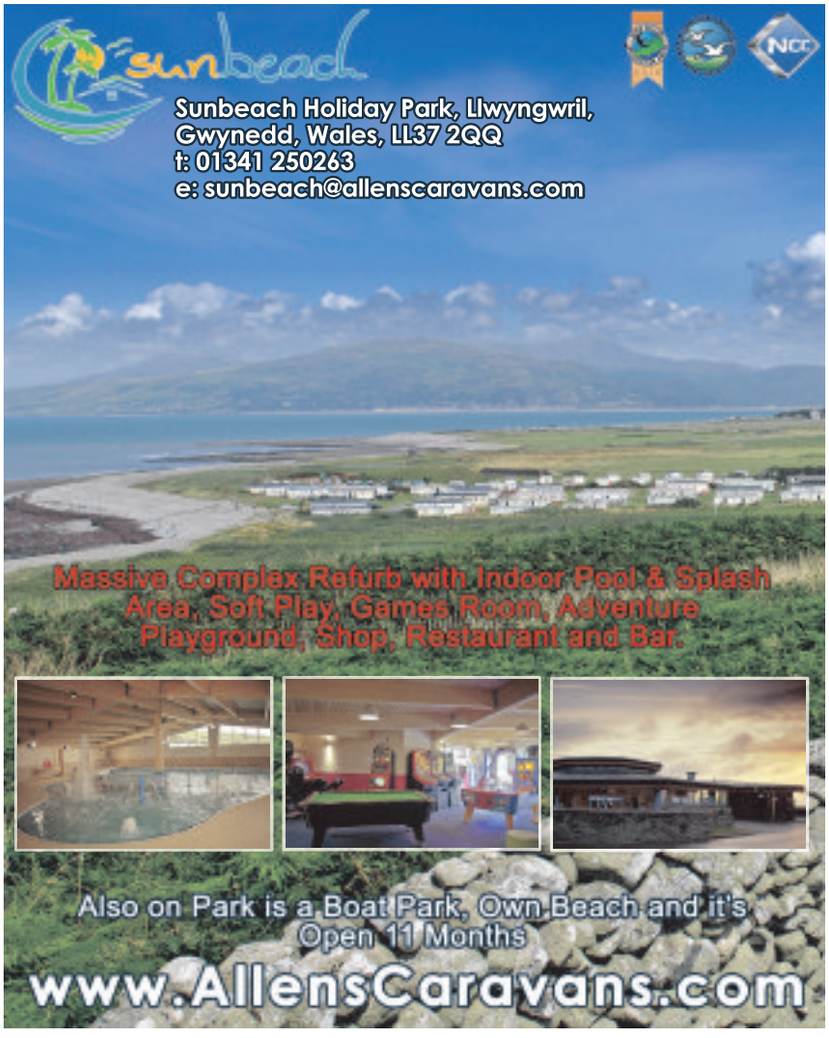
They will be sold at Sheffield Auction Gallery on September 30.

Another sent from Florida includes: "Dear Mom + Dad. Going down well at gigs, whether [sic] is great and everybody is sun taned [sic]... We are getting two gold discs at the end of the tour."

Specialist music valuer and auctioneer at the Gallery Stephen Flintoft said: "It is discoveries like this that make my job so fulfilling.

"Perhaps the most interesting item among so many is the handwritten lyrics headed by Earth to the song Changing Phases, a title later changed to Solitude, which featured on the 1971 double platinum Black Sabbath album Master of Reality.

Some of the lyrics written for Earth, the precursor to Black Sabbath



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Thursday 1 September:	10am - 7pm
Friday 2 September:	10am - 4pm
Saturday 3 September:	10.30am – 2.30pm
Monday 5 September:	10am - 7pm
Tuesday 6 September:	10am - 7pm
Wednesday 7 September:	10am - 7pm
Thursday 8 September:	10am - 7pm
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- IELTS – Academic
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- IT Introduction to Spreadsheets / Intermediate Spreadsheets
- IT Introduction to Databases / Intermediate Databases
- Italian for Beginners
- Jewellery Making – Introduction / Intermediate / Advanced
- Learning Support Practitioners
- Manufacturing Engineering HNC / HND
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Sandwell College
West Bromwich

RATED GOOD BY **Ofsted**

Further Education and Skills inspection report published 19 June 2014, Inspection Number: 434083.

New director aims to strike a chord

She is following in the footsteps of Sir Simon Rattle and Andris Nelsons.

The brilliant new music director of the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra, 29-year-old Mirga Gražinytė-Tyla, will be unveiled on August 26.

The Lithuanian has won plaudits for her energy and 'rare talent' and from September 2016 she will become the CBSO's 12th chief conductor.

She debuted with the orchestra in July 2015 and so impressed musicians, management and audiences alike that she was asked to return in January to conduct a specially arranged concert.

Gražinytė-Tyla was formerly assistant conductor at the Los Angeles Philharmonic, where she was a Dudamel Fellow in 2012-13.

Mirga Gražinytė-Tyla

Chemistry

She is also music director of the Salzburg Landestheater, in which city she won the Salzburg festival young conductors award.

Chief executive Stephen Maddock said: "There was an instant chemistry between Mirga and our musicians, and the excitement in Symphony Hall at her concerts was palpable. Mirga is thrilling audiences wherever she goes: we can't wait to start making music with her."

Moritz Pfister, the orchestra's principal second violin, agreed. "She's a very popular choice. She's very musical, and also extremely expressive. The two concerts we did with her were really exciting.

"She has a clear idea of what she wants, but she's very receptive to what the orchestra has to offer. She has a very natural authority – from the minute she came on stage she was convincing. It's great news for us as an orchestra and for the arts generally in the Midlands."

Brothers hell-Brent on being comic office boys

'Ricky would always be trying out material on us – it was surreal to see David Brent come to life in front of your eyes'.

Musical brothers Michael and Steven Clarke grew up in Aldridge, moved to Amsterdam at a young age and returned to Walsall as teenagers before going their separate ways to Birmingham and Devon, so it is fair to say they know a little bit about life on the road.

However, over the last three years the pair have learned what that really entails – thanks to comedy icon Ricky Gervais and his alter ego David Brent, the cringe-inducing, guitar wielding sales rep and star of The Office. Michael was chosen to play keyboards in Brent's band, Foregone Conclusion, alongside his brother Steven on bass, when Ricky first took the group public back in 2013. Both are session musicians.

The band's first two shows at London's Bloomsbury Theatre sold out in less than a minute.

Since then, the group have gone on to record a full album and will now take to the big screen in Life On The Road, a feature-length film where Brent travels up and down the country ch asing his dream of being a rock star.

Michael, 35, who recently moved from Walsall to Small Heath, said: "One of my latest jobs was working with Andy Burrows, the former Razorlight drummer, on his solo projects.

"After a couple of years with Andy, it transpired he had been speaking with Ricky about potentially getting a band together to play these Brent songs.

"When they decided to give it a try, Andy brought us along. It just felt like it was going to work straight away, Ricky is an amazing professional with an incredible work ethic.

Grandchildren

"Everything since then has just been a natural progression, obviously leading up to this film.

"At first, I just thought if I had one session with Ricky playing these songs, it would be a good one to tell the grandchildren. Now I can just show them the proof."

Getting in front of the camera was a new experience for Michael and Steven, who admitted to being a bit nervous at first over the prospect of ruining takes with uncontrollable laughter. Being a long-time fan of The Office and Ricky Gervais, Michael said he was unsure as to how he would be able to control himself, saying: "I have been a fan of Ricky for years now, back to when he was on The 11 O'Clock Show.

Michael and Steven Clarke (far left) are two members of David Brent's band Foregone Conclusion

"In rehearsals he would just become Brent for a few minutes at a time, you knew he was trying out material and he would have everyone laughing.

"Some of those bits became fully formed jokes for the movie. When it came to filming, I was a bit nervous about controlling myself, but as soon as I saw Ricky was the worst out of all of us that helped me relax.

"I wouldn't call what I do acting in the film, but I tried to get myself into the mindset of my character.

"I thought, how would I react if I was in this band with some guy called David Brent and he was doing all of these silly things?"

Since joining Foregone Conclusion, Michael's life has taken on a surreal quality, culminating in a performance in Leicester Square last Wednesday ahead of the world premiere.

He called joining the band a 'golden opportunity' after years of trials and tribulations in bands.

It was Steven, 37, who was the original musician in the family, with his band the Dum Dums achieving a clutch of top 20 singles between 2000 and 2001.

He now works as a tour manager, alongside his job as a session musician, as well as performing alongside brother Michael in the pair's band the Sad Professors. Steven, who recently moved to Devon with his wife and her son, said: "Over the years it has become easier for me and Michael to work together.

"That competitive spirit kind of fades away and you just focus on what you can do together. This has been an unbelievable experience for us both and I am glad we got to work together on such a special project."

Musically

Speaking about Brent's musical stylings, Steven said it was 'great fun' to be able to play music and not be too concerned about being perceived as 'cool' or have to double guess what an audience would want.

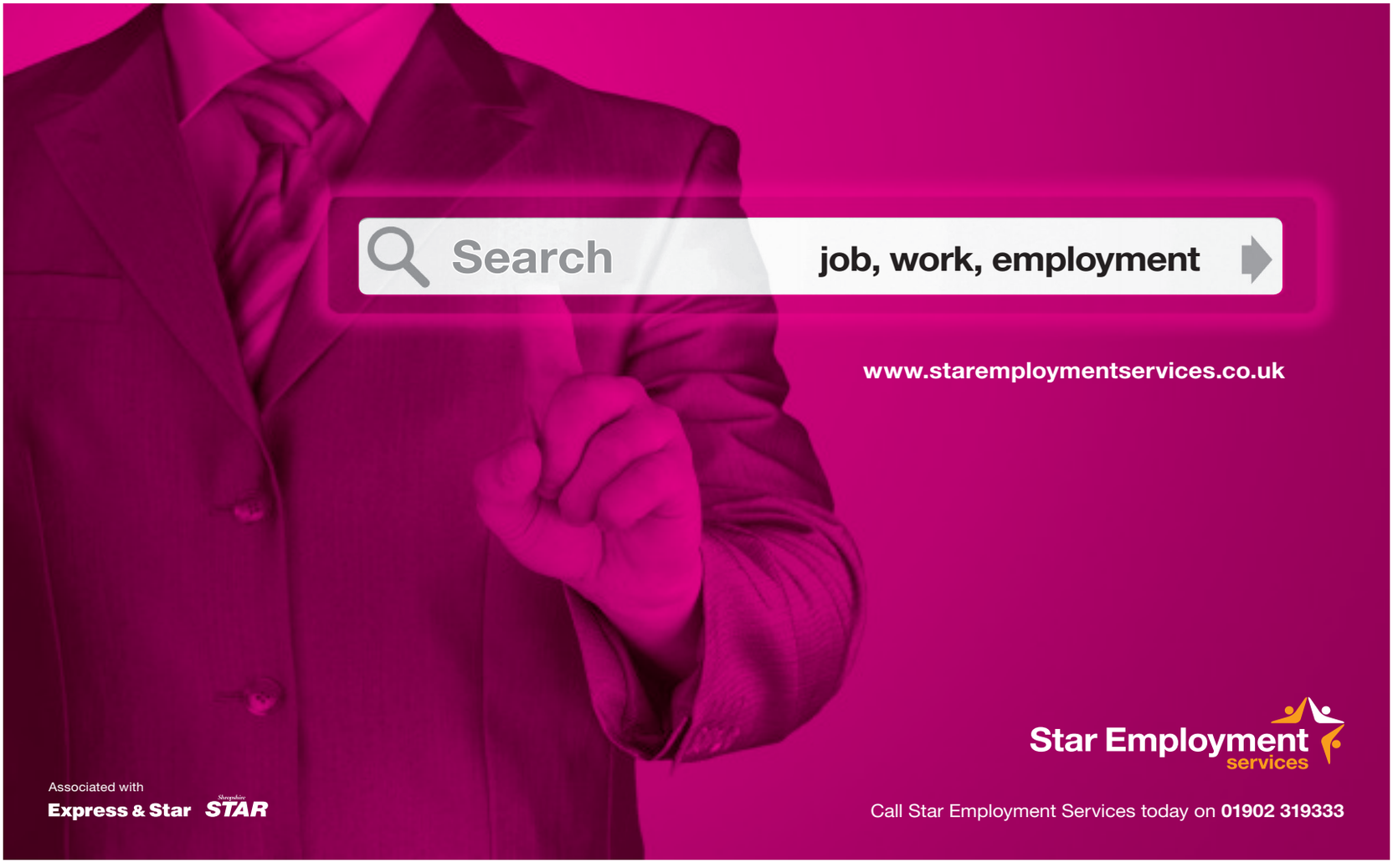
He said: "In terms of publicity and attention, this is by far the most high profile project we have worked on. You see the posters everywhere, catch the trailers on TV and it just doesn't go away how huge it all is.

"I will speak to people and when they ask what I have been up to, I tell them that I have been working in David Brent's band. They always say it sounds like the best job in the world.

"On the other side of the coin, when I think about this musically, we have just got to indulge every musical cliche we would be too afraid to do in our original bands.

"That has been a joy and, of course, it helps us work quicker, because Ricky can just point to a Bruce Springsteen or David Bowie song and we know exactly what he wants."

● Life on the Road is released today, accompanied by a soundtrack album and a songbook. **By Jordan Harris**



fast theticket

PUP-py power

Canadian rockers have landed

See Page 25

King's here

See Page 25

NATIVE MONSTER
Entertainment Unleashed

For full listings see **Express & Star** every Friday

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T. Rextasy

Saturday, 9pm
Robin 2, Bilston
Get It On with Danielz and his spell-binding tribute to Marc Bolan and T Rex, you'll love to boogie to this even if you were not around for the glam rock era.
Visit **www.therobin.co.uk**

Dirty Jane

Saturday, 7.30pm
O2 Institute Blue Room, B'ham
One of Birmingham's noisiest rock bands, with Hednesford trio Dog, Telford's Cavalier Kings and Fleer.
Visit **www.academymusicgroup.com/o2institutebirmingham/events/855157/dirty-jane-tickets**

The Glenn Miller Story

Until Saturday, various times
New Alexandra Theatre, B'ham
Veteran song and dance man Tommy Steele gets to play one of his heroes in this musical about the big band leader.
Visit **www.atgtickets.com/shows/the-glenn-miller-story/new-alexandra-theatre-birmingham**

Raghu Dixit

Wednesday, 7pm
O2 Academy 2, B'ham
The acclaimed Indian musician, composer and singer-songwriter brings his infectious global music into Brum.
Visit **www.academymusicgroup.com/o2academybirmingham/events/845875/raghu-dixit-tickets**

CLUBBING

Propaganda
Tonight,
O2 Academy Birmingham,
B1 1DB.
Call 0121 622 8250

JAZZ, SOUL, RNB, BLUES AND REGGAE

Up 4 The Downstroke
Tonight and tomorrow,
The Jam House, Birmingham,
B3 1QU.
Call 0121 200 3030

Debbie Bond with Radiator Rick at CARAD & The Speedgums
Tonight,
Rhayader Museum and Gallery,
LD6 5ER.
Call 01597 810561

The Commandments
Tomorrow, £8
The River Rooms, Stourbridge,
DY8 1JN.
Call 01384 397 177 or 07986 577661

Tom Martin Celtic Soul
Tomorrow, £5 and Mon, £5
Tower Of Song, Birmingham,
B30 3EL.
Call 0121 486 1300

Elkie Brooks
Mon, £27.50
Huntingdon Hall, CrownGate,
Worcester, WR1 3LD.
Call 01905 611427

ROCK & METAL

The Replicas
Tonight, £8
The River Rooms, Stourbridge,
DY8 1JN.
Call 01384 397 177
or 07986 577661

Skabucks
Tonight, £6
The RoadHouse Birmingham,
Kings Norton, B30 3DZ.
Call 0121 246 2273

Heronimus Fin
Tonight,
Tower Of Song, Birmingham,
B30 3EL. Call 0121 486 1300

Queensrÿche
Tonight, £20 - £22.50
The Robin 2, Bilston, WV14 7LJ.
Call 01902 401211

Ozzy OzzSpawn & Disarm Goliath
Tomorrow, £6 - £7
The RoadHouse Birmingham,
Kings Norton, B30 3DZ.
Call 0121 246 2273

T. Rextasy – 'Get It On'
Tomorrow, £13 - £15
The Robin 2, Bilston, WV14 7LJ.
Call 01902 401211

The Undertones
Tomorrow,
The Sugarmill, Stoke-on-Trent,
ST1 1DR.
Call 01782 214991

Oasis v The Stone Roses
Sun, £8
The River Rooms, Stourbridge,
DY8 1JN.
Call 01384 397177
or 07986 577661

Tommy Hunt & The Edwin Starr Band featuring Angelo Starr & Johnny Boy Pryers & Lorraine Silver
Sun - £22 - £24
The Robin 2, Bilston, WV14 7LJ.
Call 01902 401211

Crowded Scouse – 'Woodface'
Thu, £10 - £12
The Robin 2, Bilston, WV14 7LJ.
Call01902 401211

POP

Thank ABBA For The Music
Tonight, £19.50 - £22.50
Huntingdon Hall, CrownGate,
Worcester, WR1 3LD.
Call 01905 611427

Michael Buble tribute
Tomorrow,
Genting Club Star City,
Birmingham, B7 5SA.
Call 0121 3278008

The Simon & Garfunkel Story
Thu at 8pm,
Artrix, Bromsgrove, B60 1PQ.
Call 01527 577330

FOLK, COUNTRY & ACOUSTIC

Quill
Thu,
MAC, Birmingham, B12 9QH.
Call 0121 446 3232

CLASSICAL

CBSO and Mirga at the BBC Proms
Tomorrow,
CBSO Centre, Birmingham,
B1 2LF.
Call 0121 616 6500

Stourport Choral Society
Wed,
Areley Kings Village Hall, Areley Common, Stourport-on-Severn,
DY13 0NB. Call 07939 318973

COMEDY

Will-E 'One Man' Special
Sun,
6 on Broad Street, Birmingham,
B1 2HF. Call 0121 632 4936

Sarah Millican: Outsider
Mon, £25
Symphony Hall, The International Convention Centre, Birmingham,
B1 2EA. Call 0121 780 3333

Jason Manford 'Best of'
Mon, £19.50
Oakengates Theatre,
Telford, TF2 6EP.
Call 01952 382382

Joe Pasquale
Wed,
Lichfield Garrick,
WS13 6HR.
Call 01543 412121

Laugh Out Loud Comedy Club at The Regent Theatre
Tomorrow, Free entry
Fenton Manor Sports Complex,
Fenton, Stoke-on-Trent, ST4 2RR.
Call 01782 233222

THEATRE

The Glenn Miller Story
Tonight and tomorrow,
New Alexandra Theatre,
Birmingham, B5 4DS.
Call 0844 871 3011

Malvern Theatres Young Company: Seussical The Musical
Tonight and tomorrow,
Malvern Theatres, WR14 3HB.
Call 01684 892277

Inside the Story: 3D books
Tue, £2
Ludlow Assembly Rooms,
SY8 1AZ.
Call 01584 878141

The Dreamboys
Thu,
New Alexandra Theatre,
Birmingham, B5 4DS.
Call 0844 871 3011

A Midsummer Night's Dream
Thu,
The Birmingham Botanical Gardens & Glasshouses,
Edgbaston, B15 3TR.
Call 0121 454 1860

One Show More
Various, free entry
Fenton Manor Sports Complex,
Fenton, Stoke-on-Trent, ST4 2RR.
Call 01782 233222

MUSEUMS, GALLERIES & DAYS OUT

Art Explorer Friday
Today,
Ikon Gallery, Birmingham,
B1 2HS.
Call 0121 248 0708

Wild art activity day
Today,
Croome Court, Worcester,
WR8 9DW.
Call 01905 371006

The Big Read: Story-time Trail
Tomorrow,
Soho House, Birmingham,
B18 5LB.
Call 0121 554 9122

First World War at Croft
Tomorrow,
Croft Castle and Parkland,
Yarpole, HR6 9PW.
Call 01568 782120

Newcomen Engine in Steam
Tomorrow - Mon,
The Black Country Living Museum,
Dudley,
DY1 4SQ.
Call 01215579643

Drakelow Tunnels Ghost Hunt with Spooky Nights
Sun, £18
Drakelow Tunnels, Wolverley and Cookley.
Call 0203 239 8075

Sunday Guided Tours
Sun, £3
Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery, B3 3DH.
Call 0121 303 1966

Open Studio: Life Drawing & Painting
Sun,
MAC, Birmingham, B12 9QH.
Call 0121 446 3232

Hidden Stories Ramble
Sun,
Clent Hills, B62 0NL.
Call 01562 712 822

Boulton goes to Bollywood
Mon,
Soho House, Birmingham,
B18 5LB.
Call 0121 554 9122

Knights & Princesses – Bank Holiday Event
Mon - Thu,
Hartlebury Castle, Kidderminster,
DY11 7XZ.
Call 01299 251890

Flea Fair
Mon,
Three Counties Showground,
Malvern, WR13 6NW.
Call 01684 584924

Whyley Dance
Tue
Areley Kings Village Hall, Areley Common, Stourport-on-Severn,
DY13 0NB.
Call 07939 318973

Sarasin & Partners National Fine Art Open
Tue,
Weston Park,
Weston-under-Lizard, Shifnal,
TF11 8LE.
Call 01952 852100

Make a code breaker
Tue, £2
Blakesley Hall Museum, Yardley,
Birmingham, B25 8RN.
Call 0121 464 2193

Wild Storytelling – Ellesmere
Tue,
Shropshire Wildlife Trust,
Shrewsbury, SY2 6AH.
Call 01743 284280

Great Fire of London Week
Tue - Thu,
Blakesley Hall Museum,
Yardley,
Birmingham,
B25 8RN.
Call 0121 464 2193

Summer Holiday Tile Decorating Workshops
Today, £5
The Ironbridge Gorge Museums,
Coalbrookdale, TF8 7DQ.
Call 01952 433 424

Rainbows
Wed,
Areley Kings Village Hall, Areley Common, Stourport-on-Severn,
DY13 0NB.
Call 07939 318973

Storytelling in the Courtyard
Wed,
Aston Hall, Birmingham, B6 6JD.
Call 0121 675 4722

Family craft activity: Hand Print Beasts
Wed, £1
Aston Hall, Birmingham, B6 6JD.
Call 0121 675 4722

Historical Talk Series. David & Pam Humphries – BCT, The Coffin Works and Beyond
Wed,
Gunmakers Arms pub,
Birmingham, B4 6HG.

Storytelling picnic with Sal Tonge at Dolerw Park
Wed, £3
Oriel Davies Gallery, The Park,
Newtown, SY16 2NZ.
Call 01686 625041

Wild Storytelling – Ludlow
Wed,
Shropshire Wildlife Trust,
Shrewsbury, SY2 6AH.
Call 01743 284280

Chance to Dance
Thu,
Areley Kings Village Hall, Areley Common, Stourport-on-Severn,
DY13 0NB.
Call 07939 318973

Graham Colling – Granary Art Gallery
Thu,
Weston Park,
Weston-under-Lizard, Shifnal,
TF11 8LE.
Call 01952 852100

Wild Storytelling – Shrewsbury
Thu,
Shropshire Wildlife Trust,
Shrewsbury, SY2 6AH.
Call 01743 284280

MISC. EVENTS

Wildcraft: The Outdoor Adventure for Video Gamers
Today,
Chirk Castle, LL14 5AF.
Call 01691 777701

Check out full listings in **the ticket** in Friday's Express & Star

Power PUP as punks grow up

CANADIAN punky power-pop outfit PUP are promising a blistering show in Birmingham, following the release of their new album The Dream Is Over.

The album's title is a riposte to the doctor who told singer and guitarist Stefan Babcock those very words when a cyst was found on his vocal chords.

Some wear and tear was not surprising after the Toronto quartet had played 450 shows over two years in support of the band's self-titled debut album.

But The Dream Is Over is very much an affirmation that the dream is still alive. It's brattish blasts of angry nerd rock, fuelled by self-loathing, youthful angst and the desire to escape a small town existence, show that the 20-something rockers haven't lost their mojo... and their lead singer delivers a full-voiced 'up yours' to bleak medical advice.

Touring

Stand out tracks include the anthemic Pine Point and Old Wounds, while Can't Win, My Life is Over & I Couldn't Be Happier, and If This Tour Doesn't Kill You, I Will mixes loathing and self-deprecation.

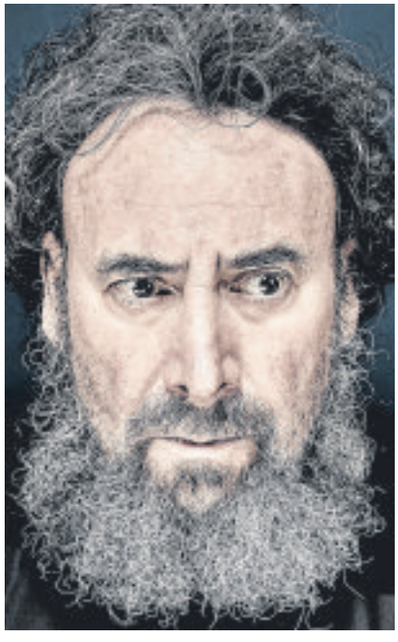
Babcock says: "I think that a lot of people in their mid-20s start to feel this sense of disillusionment, realising that maybe life isn't going to turn out exactly as you'd pictured it.

"I love touring and playing music more than anything in the world. But there's also this realisation that maybe the romanticised vision of this lifestyle I'd imagined ten years ago has little or no relation to the actual experience – waking up in a Walmart parking lot in a van full of dudes and thinking I'm 27, broke and lonely. That's where a lot of these songs come from.

"I think most people eventually experience that resignation, that acceptance of real life with all its imperfections. It's called growing up."

PUP, who also feature guitarist Steve Sladkowski, bassist Nestor Chumak and drummer Zack Mykula, are in concert at The Rainbow, in Digbeth, Birmingham, on Tuesday.

Canadian band PUP are growing up on the road, as heard on their new album



Knight will play a king

SIR Antony Sher (pictured left) takes on what many regard the 'Mount Everest of roles' when he plays King Lear, which opened this week at the Royal Shakespeare Theatre in Stratford-upon-Avon.

But 24 'extras', including amateur actors from Birmingham, Solihull and Warwickshire, will also be taking part in the landmark production which runs at Stratford until October 15 and will be screened live in selected cinemas on October 12.

Directed by Royal Shakespeare Company Artistic Director Gregory Doran, the production will transfer to London in November.

Sir Antony's first Shakespeare role with the RSC was as The Fool in King Lear in the early 1980s, before he made his name with his celebrated portrayal of Richard III. He has gone on to play Macbeth, Falstaff, Iago, Malvolio, Prospero and Shylock for the RSC. His screen roles have included Disraeli in Mrs Brown, Dr Moth in Shakespeare in Love and Glickman in TV thriller The Shadow Line.

One of Shakespeare's most celebrate plays, King Lear has an aging monarch aiming to live out his days without the burden of power. He shares his kingdom between his children but regrets his decision and has to confront his mistakes.

Written around 1605/06, King Lear is considered as one of Shakespeare's great tragedies.

RSC productions of King Lear have included many famous actors in the title role, including acting knights John Gielgud, Michael Redgrave, Robert Stephens, Donald Sinden, Nigel Hawthorne, Michael Gambon and Ian McKellen.

Festival style gig at Brum pub venue

SEE six bands for a tenner (if you buy in advance) at Birmingham pub venue the Hare and Hounds on Sunday.

The gig from 4pm to 2am at the Kings Heath High Street venue will be headlined by California art rock twin duo The Garden and Madrid trio The Parrots. Plus, from Brum, come punk duo Table Scraps, rock band Sunshine Frisbee Laserbeam, garage rockers The Castillians, and The Mothers Earth Experiment's psychedelic jazz.

In the H&H's other room that night is reggae band Kioko with a DJ set from Jerry Dammers.

See www.hareandhoundsking sheath.co.uk for details.

Camper Calling to pop under canvas

THE festival season continues this weekend with Camper Calling, the three-day family festival that blends music and camping at Ragley Hall in Warwickshire.

1980s favourites ABC, who this year released the long-awaited sequel to their 1982 classic album The Lexicon of Love, will top the bill in the grounds of the mansion near Alcester. Also on the bill are The Magic Numbers, The Hoosiers, Toploader, Dodgy, plus tribute acts and circus shows.

Tickets range from £10 for a day pass to £62.50 for the weekend. Visit www.campercalling.com or call 01244 881895.

Casino memories as fans keep faith

THE major Northern Soul event at Bilston this Sunday is going ahead despite the absence of soul legend Dean Parrish.

The New Yorker, famous for Wigan Casino classic I'm On My Way, has had to pull out of the soul nostalgia line-up at the Robin 2 because he had to undergo an emergency operation.

However, there is still lots for fans to enjoy with Tommy Hunt, Lorraine Silver and Johnny Boy Pryers joining The Edwin Starr Band led by the late Motown singer's brother Angelo. Plus former Casino DJs including Russ Winstanley. Tickets cost £22 advance (£24 door) with dancing from 5pm to midnight.

Sandwell Chronicle Thursday, August 25, 2016

CHOICE

Simon Cowell

The X Factor (ITV, 8pm)
New series. The long-running talent contest returns, bringing with it a reunion for the judging panel, as veterans Nicole Scherzinger, Sharon Osbourne and Louis Walsh all reclaim their seats, joining show creator Simon Cowell to assess the latest crop of would-be stars. Also coming back to the X Factor family this year is presenter Dermot O'Leary, who takes over hosting duties from Caroline Flack and Olly Murs. As ever, the contest gets under way with the auditions stage, in which Cowell and co will be expected to successfully identify the stars of tomorrow from the thousands of hopeful competitors taking to the stage.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **10.00** Saturday Kitchen. **11.30** Lorraine's Fast, Fresh and Easy Food. (R) **12.00** Football Focus. **12.30** Bargain Hunt. (R) **1.00** BBC News; Weather. **1.10** Athletics: Diamond League Highlights. **2.00** Live Challenge Cup Rugby League Final. Hull FC v Warrington Wolves (Kick-off 3.00pm). **5.30** Now You See It.

6.00 The Getaway Car. Two brothers from Liverpool, a professional driver and his wife, a father-daughter duo, and two friends from London are among the contestant getting behind the wheel this week.

6.50 BBC News.

7.00 Regional Programme.

7.10 Pointless Celebrities. Hugh Dennis and Pauline McLynn, Charlie Higson and Adil Ray, Richard Gibson and Vicki Michelle, and Jean Fergusson and Tina Malone compete in the unorthodox quiz show.

8.00 Casualty. New series. The long-running medical drama returns with a special, feature-length edition marking the show's 30th anniversary. Beginning right where the previous series left off, Connie and Grace's lives hang in the balance after they were driven off the road and into a ravine by Steph, whose own daughter was taken away by social services following Connie's meddling. Back at the ED, the team plans a surprise party to celebrate Charlie's 30 years at Holby. When news of Connie's accident arrives, the festivities are immediately put on hold, and even old faces who have arrived to mark Charlie's big day offer to lend their expertise.

9.50 The National Lottery Live. Gaby Roslin presents as the winning Lotto and Thunderball numbers are revealed. Plus, adaptive rower Nick Beighton prepares for the 2016 Rio Paralympic Games.

10.00 BBC News; Weather.

10.20 Match of the Day. Gary Lineker presents highlights of the latest Premier League matches, which included Tottenham Hotspur v Liverpool and Hull City v Manchester United; National Lottery Update.

11.50 Film: Mary Shelley's Frankenstein. (1994)

1.45 Weather for the Week Ahead. **1.50** BBC News.

BBC2

6.05 Glorious Gardens from Above. (R) **6.50 Film:** Mr Lucky. (1943) **8.25 Film:** The Importance of Being Earnest. (1952) **10.00** Homes Under the Hammer. (R) **11.00** Lost Land of the Tiger. (R) **12.00** Hairy Bikers' Best of British. (R) **12.45** Bing Crosby: Talking Pictures. **1.25 Film:** That's Entertainment! (1974) Compilation of highlights from MGM musicals, starring Frank Sinatra. **3.30** Full Steam Ahead. (R) **4.30** Final Score. **5.30** Flog It! (R)

6.20 Gardeners' World. Monty Don explains how to look after and prune soft fruit, while Frances Tophill visits RHS Rosemoor to catch up on the vegetable trials that she started earlier in the year. (R)

6.50 Proms Extra 2016. Venezuelan pianist Gabriela Montero and conductor Jules Buckley join Katie Derham to discuss the Sao Paulo Symphony Orchestra.

7.30 Greece with Simon Reeve. Part one of two. The presenter takes a tour of Greece, travelling from the islands of the Aegean to Athens and learning how the Greek people are coping with their country's crises. (R)

8.30 Dad's Army. The platoon is selected to appear in an army training film, but Captain Mainwaring refuses to take part when he finds out his men are to play Nazi soldiers. (R)

9.00 Edinburgh Nights. Kirsty Wark meets comedians who admitted to hastily re-writing their Edinburgh Festival shows to reference to the result of the EU Referendum. Last in the series.

9.30 The Truth Commissioner. In the wake of the formation of Northern Ireland's power-sharing executive, British diplomat Henry Stanfield is appointed to head a South African-style Commission for Truth and Reconciliation, with the aim of settling any lingering resentments over the thousands of deaths that occurred on both sides during the Troubles. His primary concern becomes an investigation into the disappearance of a teenager 20 years previously. However, Stanfield soon finds there are people in power willing to go to any lengths to suppress the truth.

11.00 Film: Kings of Curry. (2013)

12.20 Film: Everlasting Moments. (2008) **2.05** This Is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITV: Fort Boyard Ultimate Challenge. **6.25** Pat & Stan. (R) **6.35** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **6.45** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **6.55** Signed Stories: Share a Story. (R) **7.00** Sooty. (R) **7.15** Super 4. (R) **7.35** Thunderbirds Are Go. (R) **8.00** Ninjago: Rise of the Snakes. (R) **8.25** ITV News. **8.30** Weekend. **9.30** I Am Team GB. **10.30** Murder, She Wrote. (R) **11.25 Film:** Columbo: Last Salute to the Commodore. (1976) **1.30** ITV News; Weather. **1.35** River Monsters. (R) **2.05** Doc Martin. (R) **4.05 Film:** The Mummy: Tomb of the Dragon Emperor. (2008) Fantasy adventure sequel, starring Brendan Fraser.

6.05 Regional Programme; Weather.

6.15 ITV News; Weather.

6.30 You've Been Framed! Gold. Harry Hill narrates a comical selection of mishaps filmed by viewers, featuring everything from cute kids and crazy animals to pranks and painful-looking accidents.

7.00 Go for It. New series. Members of the public are given a chance to demonstrate their most unusual skills in unique challenges, with successful contestants claiming a £1,000 prize.

8.00 The X Factor. New series. Dermot O'Leary comes back to the X Factor fold, while Nicole Scherzinger, Sharon Osbourne and Louis Walsh rejoin Simon Cowell on the panel as the talent show returns.

9.30 Film: The Bourne Ultimatum. (2007) Amnesiac rogue assassin Jason Bourne's long-buried memories are reawakened by a British journalist researching the secret organisation that was responsible for transforming him into a killing machine. Meanwhile, a ruthless CIA director becomes convinced Bourne is still a security risk, and plans to dispose of him once and for all. Third instalment of the spy thriller series, directed by Paul Greengrass and starring Matt Damon, Joan Allen, Julia Stiles, David Strathairn, Paddy Considine and Albert Finney.

10.35 ITV News; Weather.

10.50 Film: The Bourne Ultimatum. (2007) Concludes.

11.55 The Jeremy Kyle Show USA. The host takes his successful talk show stateside.

12.45 Jackpot247. **3.00** Murder, She Wrote. (R) **3.50** ITV Nightscreen.

CHANNEL 4

8.55 The Morning Line. **9.55** Formula 1: Belgian Grand Prix Practice 3 Live. **11.25** Salvage SOS. (R) **11.55** Formula 1: Belgian Grand Prix Qualifying Live. **2.30** Channel 4 Racing. Live coverage from Goodwood, Newmarket and Beverley. **4.45** A Place in the Sun: Summer Sun. **5.40** Ugly House to Lovely House with George Clarke. (R)

6.40 Channel 4 News.

7.00 Hidden Britain by Drone. Tony Robinson presents the first of two programmes using drones to shoot aerial footage of areas of Britain that are off limits to the public. Among the locations featured is a village on Salisbury Plain that is not listed on any maps, and is used by the military for training. The drones record an exercise involving tanks storming the area. (R)

8.00 The Good Terrorist. Documentary revisiting the controversial crusade of John Harris, the anti-apartheid campaigner whose exemplary reputation in pursuit of equality in South Africa was ruined when, in 1964, he placed a bomb in a Johannesburg station. His actions resulted in the death of a 77-year-old woman, and the severe burning of her young granddaughter. While Harris' actions up to this point had included helping to ensure South Africa would be barred from the Olympics, the 1964 bombing horrified the country. Harris was hanged eight months later, becoming the only white political prisoner to be executed in four decades of apartheid. More than 50 years later, this film makes use of Harris's own home videos to tell his story, from the perspective of those who knew him, and documents a momentous encounter in the UK between Harris's son and the now grown youngster who was maimed by his bomb.

9.00 Film: Last Vegas. (2013) Premiere. Comedy, starring Michael Douglas.

11.05 Film: Hot Tub Time Machine. (2010) Sci-fi comedy, starring John Cusack and Clark Duke.

1.00 Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA. (R) **1.50** Hollyoaks. (R) **3.55** Phil Spencer: Secret Agent. (R) **4.50** Hugh's 3 Good Things: Best Bites. (R) **5.00** Countdown. (R) **5.50** Draw It! (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake! **8.25** The Fairly OddParents. **9.00** The Saturday Show Live. **11.00** The Nightmare Neighbour Next Door. (R) **12.00** Murdered: Nightmare Neighbour Next Door. (R) **1.00** The Nightmare Neighbour Next Door. (R) **2.00** Police Interceptors. (R) **3.00** Police Interceptors. (R) **4.00** Police Interceptors. (R) **5.00** Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away. (R)

6.00 Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away. Paul and Phil expect a routine eviction, but get more than they bargained for, while Stewart and Victor hunt down £66,000 owed by a businessman. (R)

6.55 5 News Weekend.

7.00 Cricket on 5. England v Pakistan. Action from the second one-day international of the five-match series, which took place at Lord's. Presented by Mark Nicholas, with commentary and analysis by Geoffrey Boycott, Michael Vaughan and Simon Hughes.

8.00 World's Fastest Train. Exploring four historic engineering breakthroughs that paved the way for France's TGV, which regularly reaches speeds of 200mph on some services and has been pushed to nearly 360mph in special tests. The programme looks at four key steps in the development of high-speed technology, including George Stephenson's 19th-century Rocket and the Japanese Bullet Train. (R)

9.00 Football on 5: The Championship. George Riley and Lynsey Hipgrave introduce highlights from the weekend's games, including Birmingham City v Norwich City, and Newcastle United v Brighton & Hove Albion.

10.00 Football on 5: Goal Rush. George Riley and Lynsey Hipgrave introduce all the goals from the weekend's games in the Leagues One and Two.

10.30 The Funny Thing About Dating. Host Johnny Vegas offers an uproariously silly, insightful and frank look at the difficult business of finding love in the 21st century.

11.30 Impractical Jokers UK. Friends David, Matt, Lee and Paul have to convince a stranger to go to the toilet with them, and work on the front desk of a central London youth hostel.

12.00 SuperCasino. **3.10** Christmas Makes You Laugh Out Loud. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Four
7.00 David Attenborough's Zoo Quest in Colour **8.30** The Return of Flying Scotsman **9.00** Beck: In the Name of God **10.30** Forever Young – How Rock 'n' Roll Grew Up **11.30** Red Hot Chili Peppers at Reading Festival 2016 **1.00** Guitar Heroes at the BBC **2.00** Top of the Pops: 1982 **2.40** Forever Young – How Rock 'n' Roll Grew Up **3.40** Close

ITV2
12.55 Catchphrase **1.45** Re-Educating Joey Essex: GCSE Special **2.45 Film:** What a Girl Wants (2003) **3.45** FYI Daily **3.50 Film:** What a Girl Wants (2003) **4.50** The X Factor: Top Ten Success Stories **5.50 Film:** Evan Almighty (2007) **6.50** FYI Daily **6.55 Film:** Evan Almighty (2007) **7.50 Film:** Corpse Bride (2005) **8.50** FYI Daily **8.55 Film:** Corpse Bride (2005) **9.30** The Xtra Factor Live **10.30** Family Guy **11.55** American Dad! **12.55** The Cleveland Show **1.55** Mom **2.40** Teleshopping **5.40** ITV2 Nightscreen

ITV3
12.50 Film: That's Carry On (1978) **1.50** FYI Daily **1.55 Film:** That's Carry On (1978) **2.40 Film:** The Young Victoria (2009) **3.40** FYI Daily **3.45 Film:** The Young Victoria (2009) **4.50** Foyle's War **7.00** Doc Martin **8.00** Lewis **10.00** Agatha Christie's Marple **12.00** Inspector Morse **2.15** ITV3 Nightscreen **2.30** Teleshopping

ITV4
11.10 Cycling: Vuelta a Espana **12.15 Film:** Destry (1954) **1.15** FYI Daily **1.20 Film:** Destry (1954) **2.10 Film:** The Rawhide Years (1956) **3.15** FYI Daily **3.20 Film:** The Rawhide Years (1956) **4.00 Film:** Superman (1978) **5.15** FYI Daily **5.20 Film:** Superman (1978) **7.00** Cycling: Vuelta a Espana **8.00** World Series of Darts: Perth **11.30 Film:** Transporter 3 (2008) **12.30** FYI Daily **12.35 Film:** Transporter 3 (2008) **1.35** Highway Patrol **2.00** Cycling: Vuelta a Espana **2.50** ITV4 Nightscreen **3.00** Teleshopping

E4
12.30 The Goldbergs **2.30** Brooklyn Nine-Nine **4.30 Film:** Turner & Hooch (1989) **6.30** The Big Bang Theory **9.00 Film:** Mirror Mirror (2012) **11.05** Gogglebox **1.00** Rude Tube **2.00** 2 Broke Girls **2.50** Angie Tribeca **3.15** Gogglebox

Film4
1.00 Mr Popper's Penguins (2011) **2.50** Thunderbirds (2004) **4.40** 17 Again (2009) **6.45** The Princess Diaries 2: Royal Engagement (2004) **9.00** The Heat (2013) **11.20** Predator 2 (1990) **1.30** Byzantium (2012) **3.55** Close

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DAY 2	Arrive in **Dubai**, United Arab Emirates - transfer to Hotel for 3 night stay	DAY 8	**Muscat**, Oman
DAY 3	**Dubai**, United Arab Emirates	DAY 9	Relaxing Day at Sea
DAY 4	**Dubai**, United Arab Emirates	DAY 10	**Abu Dhabi**, United Arab Emirates
DAY 5	**Dubai**, United Arab Emirates - transfer to ship for embarkation	DAY 11	**Dubai**, United Arab Emirates
DAY 6	**Khasab**, Oman	DAY 12	**Dubai**, United Arab Emirates - De-bark & transfer to airport for return flight

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CHOICE

Jenna Coleman

Victoria (ITV, 9pm)
New series. In 1838, at the age of 18, young princess Alexandrina's life is transformed when she ascends the throne of Great Britain and becomes Queen Victoria. As monarch in her own right, the young Victoria suddenly finds herself freed of the repressive shackles placed on her by her mother's advisor, Conroy, and builds a new alliance with the charismatic prime minister Lord Melbourne. However, her inexperience makes her susceptible to mistakes – and ultimately scandal. Period drama, starring Jenna Coleman.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **7.30** Match of the Day. (R) **9.00** BBC News. **10.00** Sunday Morning Live. **11.00** Homes Under the Hammer. (R) **12.00** Bargain Hunt. (R) **1.00** BBC News; Weather. **1.15** Escape to the Continent. (R) **2.15** Summer: Earth's Seasonal Secrets. (R) **3.15** Eat Well for Less? (R) **4.15** The Great British Bake Off. (R) **5.15** Songs of Praise. **5.50** Pointless Celebrities. (R)

6.35 BBC News.

6.50 Regional Programme.

7.00 Countryfile. Joe Crowley meets a tenant farmer to see what sort of problem he faces working on the World Heritage Site of Stonehenge, while Anita Rani visits reconstructions of neolithic houses. Including weather for the week ahead.

8.00 Antiques Roadshow. New series. Fiona Bruce presents the show from Tewkesbury Abbey, Gloucestershire, where a collection of rare figures and dolls turns out to be a find of national importance.

9.00 Are You Being Served? Young Mr Grace seeks to modernise the department store. Remake of the celebrated sitcom, starring Sherrie Hewson, Jason Watkins, John Challis and Mathew Horne. Part of the Landmark Comedy Sitcom season.

9.30 Porridge. Dick Clement and Ian La Frenais' updated version of their prison comedy, starring Kevin Bishop as the grandson of wily old lag Fletcher. With Ralph Ineson and Mark Bonnar. Part of the Landmark Comedy Sitcom season.

10.00 BBC News.

10.20 Regional Programme.

10.30 Match of the Day 2. Mark Chapman reviews the latest Premier League action, featuring Manchester City v West Ham United at the Etihad Stadium and West Bromwich Albion v Middlesbrough at the Hawthorns.

11.25 Comedy Connections. The story behind department store-based sitcom Are You Being Served? The programme reveals how Joanna Lumley and a Piccadilly shop inspired the much-loved series. (R)

11.55 Comedy Connections. The story behind prison-based sitcom Porridge. (R)

12.25 Weather for the Week Ahead.
12.30 BBC News.

BBC2

6.15 The A to Z of TV Gardening. (R) **7.00** Glorious Gardens from Above. (R) **7.45** Gardeners' World. (R) **8.15** Countryfile. (R) **9.15** The Beechgrove Garden. **9.45** Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. (R) **11.15** Lorraine Pascale: How to Be a Better Cook. (R) **11.45** James Martin: Home Comforts. (R) **12.15** MOTD2 Extra. **1.00** Athletics: Diamond League Highlights. **2.00 Film:** None But the Brave. (1965) Second World War adventure, starring Frank Sinatra. **3.45** Flog It! (R) **4.30** Kate Humble: My Sheepdog and Me. (R) **5.30** The Great British Bake Off: An Extra Slice. (R)

6.00 Highlands: Scotland's Wild Heart. Following the efforts being made by scientists, conservationists and local people in the Highlands as they work to repair the damage of the past and rebuild wild landscapes and habitats. The programme meets Dave Anderson from Forestry Commission Scotland and his colleague Simon Smith as they tag and monitor red kite and osprey chicks, gaining a unique perspective of the lives of the birds before they fly the nest. Cameras also capture the efforts of the Scottish Wildcat Action Plan team, as well as Paul Lister's project to reintroduce wolves and bears to his Alladale Wilderness Reserve. Last in the series. (R)

7.00 Cats v Dogs: Which Is Best? In the second of two programmes, pooches and pussies are tested in training skills, independence and their capacity for love. Presented by Chris Packham and Liz Bonnin. (R)

8.00 Robot Wars. Dara O Briain and Angela Scanlon present the final, featuring the five heat winners and one of the runners-up. Last in the series.

9.00 Dragons' Den. A merchant navy officer-turned-product designer demonstrates his tablet holder, and two proud parents pitch their organic skincare product for babies. Presented by Evan Davis.

10.00 Fleabag. Dumped by her emotionally fragile boyfriend, Fleabag attempts to rekindle romantic fires to distract her from the mayhem of her life.

10.30 Murder in Successville.

11.00 Film: Up There. (2012)

12.15 Film: Coco Chanel & Igor Stravinsky. (2009) **2.05** Sign Zone: Holby City. (R) **3.05** This Is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITV: Fort Boyard Ultimate Challenge. **6.25** Pat & Stan. (R) **6.35** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **6.45** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **6.55** Signed Stories: Share a Story. (R) **7.00** Sooty. (R) **7.15** Super 4. (R) **7.35** Thunderbirds Are Go. (R) **8.00** Ninjago: Rise of the Snakes. (R) **8.25** ITV News. **8.30** Weekend. **9.25** Murder, She Wrote. (R) **10.15** Murder, She Wrote. (R) **11.15 Film:** Columbo: Troubled Waters. (1975) **1.15** ITV News; Weather. **1.20** Long Lost Family. (R) **2.25** The Chase. (R) **3.25** The X Factor. (R) **4.55 Film:** Despicable Me. (2010) Animated comedy, with the voice of Steve Carell.

6.35 Regional Programme; Weather.

6.45 ITV News; Weather.

7.00 Ellie Simmonds: Swimming with Dolphins. The gold-medal winning Paralympic swimmer takes a break from training regime to conquer her fear of the open ocean and fulfil her childhood dream of swimming with wild dolphins.

8.00 The X Factor. Dermot O'Leary presents as the opening weekend auditions continue.

9.00 Victoria. New series. Period drama, charting the 18-year-old Queen Victoria's struggle to mature into a formidable ruler capable of building an empire.

10.35 ITV News; Weather.

10.50 Slow Train Through Africa with Griff Rhys Jones. The comedian makes five train journeys taking in the spectacular sights of Africa, travelling to unexpected places in deserts and forests, villages and cities, and finding out how the railways are used today. On the fourth leg of his journey across the continent, Griff travels across Namibia in the south-west, experiencing luxury camping, encountering cheetahs, and visiting 1,000-foot sand dunes. (R)

11.45 Tipping Point. Game show, hosted by Ben Shephard, in which contestants answer questions to win turns on an arcade-style machine. Dropping tokens down a choice of four chutes, they hope to knock piles of them off a moving shelf - and the more they collect, the greater the prize fund. The player who has won the least amount is then eliminated, and the last one standing competes for a £10,000 jackpot. (R)

12.45 Jackpot247. **3.00** Motorsport UK. **3.50** ITV Nightscreen.

CHANNEL 4

7.30 Frasier. (R) **8.00** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **8.30** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **9.00** Sunday Brunch. **12.00** Formula 1: Belgian Grand Prix Live. Coverage of the 13th round of the season (Start-time 1.00pm). **4.00** Guy Martin's Passion for Life. (R) **4.30** Location, Location, Location. (R) **5.35** A Place in the Sun: Winter Sun.

6.35 Channel 4 News.

7.00 Posh Pawn. James Constantinou sets sail on the high seas in a historic boat, the owner of which is seeking £750,000 to fulfil his dream of becoming a well-known children's author. Meanwhile, Lawrence is tasked with selling an original Kerry Darlington painting for a memorable returning client, and Essex girl Lucy needs an urgent loan to pay for her mother's funeral, and seeks to secure the money she requires using a diamond ring that has been in her family for generations.

8.00 Prehistoric Mega Beasts: Croc v Snake. Documentary investigating the unexpected discoveries made during a mining operation in Cerrejon, northern Colombia, where excavations have uncovered evidence of a prehistoric world filled with giant creatures. The largest of these was the titanoboa, a 43-foot snake that appeared to be unmatched in either size or strength. However, further findings in the region indicate that the titanoboa's supremacy may have been challenged by a giant crocodilian creature, and scientists conduct a close examination of fossilised remains to determine which of the two ruled this ancient animal kingdom.

9.00 The Big Fat Quiz of Everything. Noel Fielding, Eddie Izzard, Alan Carr, Chelsea Peretti, Romesh Ranganathan and Dara O Briain are quizzed by Jimmy Carr on the past 100,000 years of history, with topics ranging from politics to pop music, fashion to film and art to animals. Jimmy is ably assisted by regulars Jon Snow, the children of Mitchell Brook Primary School and Joey Essex, as well as a whole host of famous question setters. Last in the series.

10.35 Film: The Watch. (2012)

12.40 Formula 1: Belgian Grand Prix Highlights. **1.40** Friday Night Dinner. (R) **2.05** Walking the Himalayas. (R) **3.00** Location, Location, Location. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake!: Peppa Pig. **6.05** Toby's Travelling Circus. (R) **6.15** Angelina Ballerina. (R) **6.30** Bob the Builder. (R) **6.40** Wanda and the Alien. (R) **6.50** Zack and Quack. (R) **7.05** Pets. (R) **7.10** Noddy in Toyland. (R) **7.20** Paw Patrol. **7.35** Little Princess. (R) **7.50** Pip Ahoy! (R) **8.10** Blaze and the Monster Machines. (R) **8.35** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) **8.50** Shimmer and Shine. (R) **9.15** Jelly Jamm. (R) **9.30** LazyTown. (R) **9.55** The Fairly OddParents. **10.30** Football on 5: The Championship. (R) **11.30** Football on 5: Goal Rush. (R) **12.05** Access. (R) **12.10** Now That's Funny! (R) **1.10 Film:** Are We There Yet? (2005) Family comedy, starring Ice Cube. **3.00** Cats Make You Laugh Out Loud. (R) **4.00** Dogs Make You Laugh Out Loud. (R) **5.00** Pets Make You Laugh Out Loud. (R)

6.00 Cats Make You Laugh Out Loud 2. Dave Spikey and Zoe Lyons introduce videos from the internet featuring animals doing bizarre and humorous things, with the first edition focusing on cats. (R)

7.00 Toddlers Make You Laugh Out Loud 2. Compilation of internet videos featuring children doing bizarre and humorous things.

8.00 Can't Pay? Benefits Special. The agents grapple with emotional evictions and moral dilemmas, focusing on people who have fallen into debt and those tasked with recovering the money. (R)

8.55 5 News Weekend.

9.00 The Most Shocking Moments of the 00s. Key moments and clips from the decade, featuring Justin Bieber's antics, Lady Gaga's meat dress and Britney Spears' meltdown. Reality TV programmes come to the fore, including George Galloway's turn as a cat in Celebrity Big Brother which shocked the nation, to Katie Price and Peter Andre's love affair on I'm a Celebrity! Featuring contributions from Louis Walsh, Liz McClarnon, Shaun Ryder and Bez, Matt Richardson, Jimmy Bullard, Nish Kumar, Sinitta, Kerry Katona and Kate Lawler.

11.55 Tattoo Disasters UK. The stories of more people who regret tattoos and are taking steps to get them removed, including a make-up artist who has one dedicated to friends he no longer sees. (R)

12.50 Lip Sync Battle: Walking Dead Special. **1.15** SuperCasino. **3.10** Suspects: The Enemy Within. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Four
7.00 BBC Proms 2016: Barenboim Conducts the West-Eastern Divan Orchestra **9.30** Sounds of the Eighties **10.00** Eisteddfod 2016 with Will Gompertz **10.30** Biffy Clyro at Reading Festival 2016 **12.00** Guitar Heroes at the BBC **1.00** Horizon: Playing God **2.00** 10 Things You Didn't Know About Tsunamis **3.00** Sounds of the Eighties **3.25** Close

ITV2
12.00 The X Factor **1.30** The Xtra Factor Live **2.30** You've Been Framed! Gold **3.00 Film:** Charlotte's Web (2006) **4.00** FYI Daily **4.05 Film:** Charlotte's Web (2006) **4.55 Film:** Bean (1997) **5.55** FYI Daily **6.00 Film:** Bean (1997) **6.45 Film:** The Incredible Hulk (2008) **7.45** FYI Daily **7.50 Film:** The Incredible Hulk (2008) **9.00** The Xtra Factor Live **10.00** Family Guy **11.30** American Dad! **12.25** Bordertown **12.50 Film:** Keith Lemon: The Film (2012) **1.50** FYI Daily **1.55 Film:** Keith Lemon: The Film (2012) **2.30** Teleshopping

ITV3
11.00 Goodnight Mister Tom **1.10** Lewis **5.10 Film:** Anne of Green Gables (2015) **7.00** Midsomer Murders **9.00** The Investigator: A British Crime Story **1.05** Wire in the Blood **3.45** May the Best House Win **5.30** Rising Damp **5.55** ITV3 Nightscreen

ITV4
5.45 Silverstone Classic **6.45** British Touring Cars – Crashes and Smashes **7.00** Cycling: Vuelta a Espana **8.00** Mr Bean **9.00 Film:** Resident Evil (2002) **10.05** FYI Daily **10.10 Film:** Resident Evil (2002) **11.10 Film:** Don't Say a Word (2001) **12.15** FYI Daily **12.20 Film:** Don't Say a Word (2001) **1.25** Highway Patrol **1.55** Cycling: Vuelta a Espana **2.55** ITV4 Nightscreen **3.00** Teleshopping

E4
12.00 Coach Trip: Road to Ibiza **2.35** The Goldbergs **4.30 Film:** ParaNorman (2012) **6.20** Rude(ish) Tube Shorts **6.30** The Big Bang Theory **10.30** Tattoo Fixers on Holiday **11.30** Gogglebox **1.05** Containment **2.05** New Girl **2.30** First Dates **3.25** Hollyoaks

Film4
11.00 Honey, I Shrunk the Kids (1989) **1.00** Ice Age: Continental Drift (2012) **2.45** Rio (2011) **4.35** Tooth Fairy (2010) **6.45** GI Joe: The Rise of Cobra (2009) **9.00** X-Men: First Class (2011) **11.35** Insidious (2010) **1.40** Insidious: Chapter 2 (2013) **3.55** Close

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FILM CHOICES

MONDAY
Thor: The Dark World, BBC1, 8.30pm
The alien thunder god returns to Earth when a powerful weapon from the dawn of time is discovered. The device attracts the attention of an old enemy of his people, who intends to use it to plunge the universe into darkness – and to stop him, Thor must form an uneasy alliance with his treacherous brother Loki. Superhero adventure sequel, starring Chris Hemsworth, Tom Hiddleston and Natalie Portman. (2013)

Schindler's List, Channel 5, 10pm
During the Second World War, German businessman Oskar Schindler strives to save Jews destined for the concentration camps by employing them in his factory – an act of mercy made possible by a deal struck with a sadistic German commandant. Steven Spielberg's Oscar-winning drama, starring Liam Neeson, Ben Kingsley and Ralph Fiennes. (1993)

Thor: The Dark World, Monday, BBC1, 8.30pm

WEDNESDAY
DOA, BBC1, 11.45pm
A burned-out college professor is accused of murdering his wife's lover, and tries to cope by going on an all-night drinking binge – but wakes to discover someone has slipped him a fatal poison, leaving him with just 24 hours to find his would-be killer. Remake of the 1950 thriller, with Dennis Quaid. (1988)

THURSDAY
Shine, BBC1, 11.30pm
Biopic of Australian prodigy David Helfgott, the talented but fragile pianist who suffered a nervous breakdown and battled years of mental illness, along with the pressures of an overbearing father obsessed with success. Overcoming the psychological damage, he succeeded in putting his life back together and eventually settled in a loving relationship. Starring Geoffrey Rush and Armin Mueller-Stahl. (1996)

FRIDAY
Bridget Jones: The Edge of Reason, ITV, 10.40pm
The hapless journalist's new romance looks set to be short-lived when she ends up serving time in a Thai prison. Comedy sequel, starring Renee Zellweger, Colin Firth and Hugh Grant. (2004)

Will Home be where the heart is for Neil?

It's 60 years since Hancock's Half Hour made the leap from the radio to the small screen, and in the process became British TV's first great home-grown sitcom.

And that's all the excuse the BBC needed to launch a new season celebrating the genre, and looking back at some of the other much-loved comedies that have amused us over the years.

This week alone there are new versions of Are You Being Served, Porridge and Goodnight Sweetheart (as well as a prequel to Keeping Up Appearances entitled Young Hyacinth), while we'll also soon be seeing new casts recreate the scripts for 'lost' episodes of Steptoe and Son, Till Death Us Do Part and the aforementioned Hancock's Half Hour.

But if that's left you wondering where the much-loved classic sitcoms of tomorrow are going to come from, never fear – BBC Two is out to prove that the genre is still in rude health with a string of pilots, including tonight's Home from Home.

On paper, all the new one-offs look promising – Peep Show's Paterson Joseph and Robert Webb are starring in The Coopers vs The Rest and Our Ex Wife respectively, while award-winning stand-up comedian James Acaster is behind We the Jury.

Motherland practically groans with class, as its writers include Graham Linehan (Father Ted and The IT Crowd) and Sharon Horgan (Catastrophe, Pulling).

However, as seasoned sitcom watchers know, no matter how good the pedigrees of everyone involved, sometimes a comedy also needs that little bit of extra unpredictable magic to succeed.

So, let's all keep our fingers crossed for Home From Home, which stars a couple of actors who know a thing or two about crowd-pleasing sitcoms – Johnny Vegas, who has logged in plenty of hours by the pool in ITV's Benidorm, and Joanna Page, aka the female half of Gavin & Stacey.

They star as married couple Neil and Fiona Hackett, who, after years of scrimping and saving, have finally made their long-cherished dream of owning a lodge in the Lake District a reality.

At first it seems that their 'traditional' lodge at Lake View Holiday Park has been worth all the hard work and sacrifices – but that's before they meet their new neighbours, Robert (Adam James) and Penny Dillon (Emilia Fox).

Robert is outdoorsy, while Penny is glamorous and louche, and Neil can't help feeling that the Dillons are superior to the Hacketts in every way.

Fiona is willing to put any feelings of inferiority to one side and join their new neighbours for a 'getting to know you' barbecue, but her husband is less convinced.

However, when the sangria starts flowing, it seems that everyone loosens up – which may not be a good idea as Neil commits the ultimate faux pas…

It remains to be seen whether Home From Home will be so successful that someone will be recreating it in 2078, but here's hoping it gets to become a series.

Home from Home, Tuesday, BBC2, 10pm

BEST OF THE REST

MONDAY
Great British Menu
BBC2, 7.30pm
New series. The culinary competition returns with chefs battling it out for the opportunity to cook at a banquet held at the Palace of Westminster celebrating ordinary Britons honoured by the Queen, with the contenders being challenged to showcase contemporary cuisine and demonstrate the transformation in British food during Elizabeth II's reign. The contest begins with entrants all representing Scotland for the first time, with Adam Handling, Michael Bremner and Ally McGrath preparing their starters.

Celebrity Home Secrets
ITV, 8pm
New series. Famous faces revisit their former homes to share their memories and secrets from when they lived there, beginning with actor Nigel Havers. He goes to the London flat where he lived when he got his first professional job aged 15, and where Mick Jagger and Keith Richards attended a celebratory party in 1967 after Nigel's father Michael Havers QC represented them at the Court of Appeal. He also goes to the basement flat in Fulham where he was living when he got his first big break in BBC mini-series A Horseman Riding By.

TUESDAY
New York: America's Busiest City
BBC2, 9pm
New series. Ade Adepitan, Anita Rani, Ant Anstead and Dan Snow take a closer look at one of the most complex and powerful cities in the world, focusing on transport links in the first edition. Anita, Ade and Ant head to Grand Central Terminal, joining the daily commute on the iconic Staten Island ferry as well as the subway, suburban railroad and citibikes. Dan visits Times Square to see how the 230 LED advertising hoardings are maintained, while Ade takes a ride in a yellow cab, discovering that the business model is under threat from newly created taxi apps.

WEDNESDAY
All Star Mr & Mrs
ITV, 8pm
There may be tougher quizzes, but few that have quite so much potential to provoke a previously happy couple into having a row on national TV. So, we should be impressed that ITV have found enough celebrities ready to prove how much (or how little) they know about their other halves to make a new series. Clearly, the chance to win £30,000 for their chosen charity is a big incentive. The first famous faces to take the plunge are Emmerdale's Adam Thomas and his fiancée Caroline Daly, Strictly dancers Kevin and Karen Clifton and Dad's Army star Ian Lavender and his wife Michele Hardy. As ever, Phillip Schofield will be asking the questions, but hopefully he won't have to act as referee as well.

Great British Menu, Monday, BBC2, 7.30pm

THURSDAY
Ingenious Animals
BBC1, 8pm
New series. Hugh Fearnley-Whittingstall and a team of wildlife experts travel the globe in search of the most surprising animal stories and reveal how and why animals do such remarkable things. The first episode explores the world of animal intelligence, with Hugh visiting Florida to investigate an unexpected relationship between an alligator and a manatee, which has animal intelligence experts baffled. Plus, conservationist Giles Clark finds out if elephants can feel empathy – one of the most sophisticated forms of emotional intelligence.

FRIDAY
Would I Lie to You?
BBC1, 8.30pm
New series. The comedy panel show makes a welcome return, with the hotseat once again occupied by Welsh comedian Rob Brydon. This opening instalment of the tenth series sees team captains David Mitchell and Lee Mack joined by guests Bake Off co-host Mel Giedroyc, heavyweight boxer David Haye, actor-musician Martin Kemp and comedian Romesh Ranganathan. As usual, the participants aim to hoodwink their opponents with absurd facts and plausible lies about themselves in a bid to secure a team victory and the dubious honour of being dubbed the liar of the week.

Lady C and the Castle
ITV, 9pm
The restoration of Castle Goring in Sussex, which was derelict when purchased by Lady Colin Campbell, who had plans to transform it into an upmarket venue for weddings and events.

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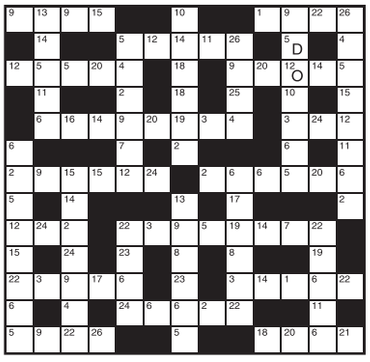
Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



1	14
2	15
3	16
4	17
5 D	18
6	19
7	20
8	21
9	22
10	23
11	24
12 O	25
13	26

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
I	X	N	M	R	F	Y	S	V	Q	E	H	J
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
P	O	W	K	U	T	D	A	G	L	Z	B	C

Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.

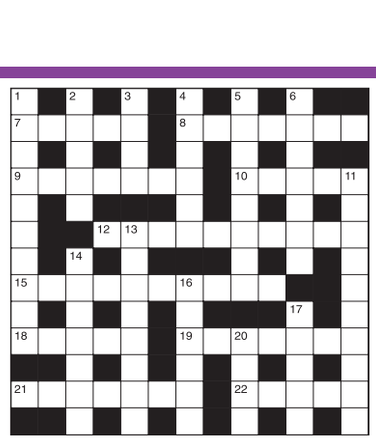
Cryptic Clues:

Across

7. Is about to study pictures (5)
8. Its quarters are hardly spotless (7)
9. Hands over and retires (5,2)
10. The hump in the middle of bridges (5)
12. Correctly positioned climbers are well advised to take it! (5,3,2)
15. Get to grips, but in friendly fashion (5,5)
18. Delay and yield to another's wishes (5)
19. In a suit designed for a hot country (7)
21. A facial expression - a sinister one (7)
22. Cultivated Scandinavian (5)

Down

1. Died with heart strain - in great pain? (10)
2. One will be anxious to do it (5)
3. Goddess is repeatedly put down (4)
4. Embrace that really fixes things (6)
5. Having got more on loan, you end up in debt (8)
6. There are thirty-one of these distress calls (7)
11. Fresh sand, please, for use by the sea (10)
13. Sweet rice came out of it (3-5)
14. A month, just, in London (7)
16. The country air! (6)
17. Remains precisely how he is (5)
20. Egg production centre (4)



Quick Clues:

Across

7. Smell (5)
8. Stamp (7)
9. Curtail (7)
10. Cold (5)
12. Trial place (5,2,3)
15. Vivacity (10)
18. Shoot (5)
19. Windpipe (7)
21. Coach (7)
22. Shelf (5)

Down

1. Policemen (10)
2. Machine (5)
3. Annoying child (4)
4. Victor (6)
5. Roomy (8)
6. Readable (7)
11. Criminal (3-7)
13. Considerate (8)
14. Exceeded (7)
16. Essence (6)
17. Rebuke (5)
20. Skilled (4)

Sudoku

8								3
	5			7				
		3	8		2	6		
	9	8	4		6	7	1	
3								6
	6	7	2		5	8	3	
		1	7		3	2		
7				2				
9						3		4

Fill in the grid below so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS >

3	4	9	7	1	8	5	6	2
7	5	1	9	6	2	4	8	3
8	6	2	4	3	5	9	1	7
4	3	6	1	7	9	2	5	8
2	7	8	3	5	4	1	9	6
9	1	5	8	2	6	3	7	4
1	8	3	2	9	7	6	4	5
6	9	7	5	4	3	8	2	1
5	2	4	6	8	1	7	3	9

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS: CRYPTIC - Across: 1 Bean-feast; 8 Ion; 9 Army canteen; 11 Penalty; 12 Drear; 13 Little; 15 People; 17 Cabot; 18 Sea-salt; 20 On one's knees; 22 Ark; 23 Falsehood. Down: 2 Ear; 3 Focal; 4 Annoys; 5 Treadle; 6 Dinner plate; 7 Insurgent; 10 Minute-books; 11 Policeman; 14 Lets off; 16 As well; 19 Ankle; 21 Ego. QUICK - Across: 1 Elemental; 8 Rub; 9 Determinate; 11 Immerse; 12 Scour; 13 Breach; 15 Invite; 17 Learn; 18 Appoint; 20 Educational; 22 Can; 23 Tasteless. Down: 2 Lie; 3 Error; 4 Toiled; 5 Liaison; 6 Premonition; 7 Abhorrent; 10 Temperament; 11 Imbalance; 14 Conduct; 16 Harass; 19 Pride; 21 Ass.

Thinking space

Quiz

1. Which bird has golden and argus varieties?
2. Which Scottish group had a No. 1 hit single in 1992 with Goodnight Girl?
3. In which constellation is Deneb the brightest star?
4. After which French city is denim named?
5. Which supermodel 'wrote' the novel Swan?
6. Of which place was Baron Hailsham baron?
7. Of what is a magneto a simple example?
8. In which US city is the Grand Old Opry?
9. Who succeeded John Monks as general secretary of the TUC in 2003?
10. What sort of creature is a loon?

Last week's solutions:

Quiz: 1 Fu Manchu; 2 Tenerife; 3 Treasure Island; 4 The atomic bomb; 5 M; 6 Archbishop of York; 7 Richard Burton; 8 Crows; 9 Boxing; 10 John Cleese.

Niner: SCRAMBLED

Niner

Each number from 1 to 9 represents a different letter. Solve the clues and insert the letters in the appropriate squares to discover a word which uses all nine letters.

6542 gives a girl's name,
8332 gives a second girl's name,
89712 gives a third girl's name.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9

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Kaiser Chiefs' Ricky Wilson

FROM the top of the bill to the bottom V Festival offered up a musical feast to keep the masses in high spirits all weekend.

Before the 70,000 festival goers were let in to Weston Park all the talk was regarding the main stage headliners.

Organisers pushed the boat out to get Justin Bieber over to the UK for the weekend, but fan speculation had mounted in the days leading up to the festival that he may pull out. Following his 'disappearance' from Instagram, Beliebers took to social media to express their concern that their idol was in a bad place and would leave V with a huge gap in its line-up.

They need not have worried, as Bieber showed up to deliver a greatest hits set to an adoring, enormous crowd.

It was a fitting way to close proceedings on the Shropshire and Staffordshire border, with those who chose this leg over the Essex counterpart sure to have felt like they had claimed a small victory in getting the megastar to end their weekend. One thing that was notable by its absence, for the most part, was the rain.

So often the downfall of the whole festival experience, other than a few showers on Saturday, the Midland crowd got to enjoy a healthy amount of sunshine, especially on Sunday.

Rihanna took to the stage in the dark of night on Saturday to give a huge crowd a party they will never forget. The superstar singer took things to another level with her eye-popping show.

For those who fancied something a bit different at the end of their nights, the MTV stage was headlined by indie heroes Kaiser Chiefs on Saturday and dance legends Faithless on Sunday.

As has become customary for V in recent years, a contrast between the worlds of pop and rock was visible. Travis and Jake Bugg both attracted large crowds of die hard and casual fans.Travis frontman Fran Healy brought the crowd to life, even climbing the barrier at one point to get amongst it.

In between all of this was Tom Odell, whose unique voice and gorgeous songs gave everyone a chance to catch their breath, while Little Mix kept those eager to keep the party going entertained on the main stage.

Sunday's nostalgia kick came in the shape of Rick Astley, with Jess Glynne bringing us back up to date, with Stormzy and Bastille setting up the crowd for Justin's V-ery spectacular finale.

Rihanna striking a pose as one of the headline acts

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PROPERTY

YOUR WEEKLY GUIDE TO HOME BUYING AND LETTING

End terrace in a corner location with potential to extend

OLDBURY £169,950

An end terraced house on a corner location, 108 Hill Top Road, Oldbury, has potential to extend, subject to permissions.

It is for sale through Tom Giles at £169,950.

Situated in a quiet cul-de-sac location in a popular and convenient residential area, it is within walking distance of shopping facilities at George Road/Pottery Road and also Brandhall Road/Pound Road. Public transport service links are also close by providing access into Oldbury, Bearwood, Birmingham and other surrounding areas. There are also schools available in the area for all age groups.

Warranting full internal inspection to appreciate the accommodation being offered and the potential for further extension, this home has double glazing, gas central heating and has had a new boiler only three months ago with a seven year guarantee.

It is set back from the roadside behind a driveway providing parking for numerous vehicles. In more detail the entrance hall has laminate flooring and stairs off. The lounge has a wooden fireplace surround housing a pebble-effect fire on a marble hearth. There is storage under the stairs.

The dining kitchen has laminate floor covering, an L-shaped working surface with three tier drawers, inset stainless steel sink with mixer tap and double base unit, a single base unit, appliance space and cooker reveal. There are tiled surrounds to the working surface and a window and door to the rear.

The utility/shower room has half height tiling, a grey pedestal wash hand basin, shower cubicle in full height tiling with "Aqualisa" shower and low flush WC. It has a ceramic tiled floor, plumbing for a washing machine and obscure double glazed window to side.

Bedroom one has built-in wardrobes with sliding doors, one being mirrored with hanging rails and shelves. Of the two further bedrooms, bedroom three has a built-in storage cupboard.

The bathroom has a white suite with full height tiling, a pedestal wash hand basin, low flush WC and panelled bath and ceramic floor tiling.

KEY FEATURES

- Extension potential
- Ample off road parking
- Larger than average garden
- Quiet cul-de-sac
- 3 bedrooms

TO VIEW THIS PROPERTY

AGENT: Tom Giles
TEL: 0121 552 6171
EMAIL: general@tomgiles.co.uk

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Based on the final property selling prices achieved in Sandwell - GetAgent 23rd July 2016

MOST SALES

Spacious detached is ideal for a family

OLDBURY
£249,950

This four-bedroomed detached house in Brades Road, Oldbury, is a spacious family property with parking, a garage and front and rear gardens.

It is for sale through Tom Giles at £249,950 with no chain.

Warranting internal inspection to appreciate the size of accommodation being offered, it has gas central heating and double glazing, a porch, entrance hall, lounge, under-stairs store cupboard, dining room, dining kitchen, utility, lobby, cloakroom, four bedrooms, en suite shower and a main bathroom

For further information contact Tom Giles on 0121 5526171 or visit www.tomgilesandco.co.uk

Well presented three bedroom end terraced property

WEDNESBURY
£114,950 <<<

Having recently joined the property market is this well presented three-bedroomed end of terrace in Cobham Road, Friar Park, Wednesbury.

It is for sale through Bartrams at £114,950.

It briefly comprises an entrance porch, entrance hallway, bathroom, lounge, kitchen, lean to, three bedrooms, front and rear gardens, majority central heating and double glazing.

In more detail the porch has tiled flooring and the entrance hall has tongue and groove walls and under-stairs storage. The bathroom has an electric shower and tiled walls and a WC, wash hand basin and a bath. The lounge has a bay window to the front and a gas fire, coving and a dado rail.

Contact Bartrams on 0121 6019370 or visit the website at www.bartrams.com

TOM GILES & CO

Oldbury
0121 552 6171

team

NEW
OLDBURY

HILL TOP ROAD
End terraced house in a corner location with the potential for extension subject to planning. Comprising entrance hall, lounge, dining kitchen, shower room/utility, three bedrooms, bathroom. Off road parking for numerous vehicles and larger than average rear garden. EPC Rating F.
Offers in the region of £169,950

NEW
SMETHWICK

PAVILION AVENUE
An extended well maintained and presented semi-detached house in a quiet cul-de-sac location offering good sized accommodation comprising porch, entrance hall, lounge, dining area, kitchen, lobby/utility, sitting room/bedroom 4, wet room, three bedrooms, bathroom. Central heating and double glazing. Parking to front and established private garden at rear. EPC Rating D.
Asking Price: £159,950

NEW
OLDBURY

TWYDALE AVENUE
Spacious semi-detached house in need of general updating and decoration comprising porch, entrance hall, lounge, dining room, kitchen, store cupboard, side verandah with store cupboard and toilet, three bedrooms, wet room and separate toilet, central heating, double glazing, off road parking and lawned garden at rear. EPC Rating TBC.
Offers in the region of £124,950

SMETHWICK

QUEENS ROAD
An improved semi-detached house offering good sized accommodation and having the potential for extension subject to planning. Situated in a popular and convenient location comprising entrance hall, kitchen, L-shaped lounge, conservatory, two bedrooms, shower room. Central heating, double glazing, off-road parking, detached garage, established gardens. EPC Rating C
Offers in the region of £180,000

SMETHWICK

ABBEY ROAD
CASH OFFERS ONLY. Ideal investment opportunity. Edwardian terraced house in need of complete refurbishment and being situated in a popular and convenient residential location comprising vestibule, entrance hall, front sitting room, rear sitting room, kitchen, lobby, shower room, three bedrooms. Gardens to front and rear. Garage in rear garden. EPC Rating F
Offers in the region of £100,000

OLDBURY

WALLACE ROAD
Traditional semi-detached house in need of general decoration comprising entrance hall, lounge, kitchen, lobby, toilet, three bedrooms, bathroom, double glazing and gas central heating. Established gardens to front and rear. NO UPWARD CHAIN. EPC Rating C
Price: £99,950

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A beautiful family home with modern interior

WEDNESBURY
£119,950 <<<

This beautiful extended two-bedroomed semi-detached family home in Park Hill, Wednesbury, is an ideal first time buy.

It is for sale through Love Your Postcode at offers in excess of £119,950.

With a modern décor and neutral interiors the property is inclusive of everything you could need.

Its accomodation briefly comprises an entrance porch, an entrance hallway which is well designed featuring a dog leg staircase, a through lounge which is of a good size which includes a stone fire place, a kitchen/diner to the rear of this extended property with garden views as well as a modern fitted kitchen. Externally, there is a driveway with off road parking for multiple cars and a delightful rear garden.

Contact Love Your Postcode on 0800 8620873 or visit www.loveyourpostcode.com

Terraced house is beautifully presented

SMETHWICK
£144,950

Superbly presented, this three-bedroomed terrace home in Queens Road, Smethwick, comes with well maintained gardens.

It is for sale through Love Your Postcode at £144,950. Upon entering you will find a a spacious lounge with a fireplace, large bay window to the front and a lovely feature stained glass window overlooking the kitchen. The kitchen itself is finished to a high standard offering a range of floor based and wall mounted units leading to the dining area.

There is under-stairs storage and the family bathroom, with overhead shower, completes the ground floor. The first floor landing has a large window as well as three well-proportioned bedrooms off.

Contact Love Your Postcode on 0800 8620873 or visit www.loveyourpostcode.com

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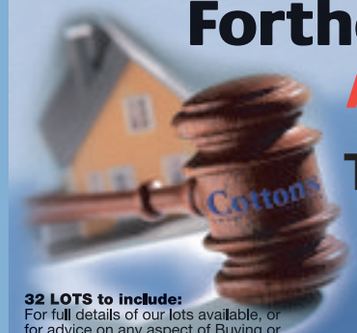

Tuesday 6th September 2016
to be held at The Aston Villa Football Club

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Quinton

Newburn Croft
Situated in a popular cul-de-sac location is this thoughtfully extended and tastefully presented four bedroom detached house with some original features. The property benefits from a bathroom and re-fitted shower room and a good sized mature rear garden. Enclosed porch, reception hall, kitchen, dining room, inner hall, fitted cloakroom, utility, living room, landing, four good sized bedrooms, re-fitted shower room, house bathroom, rear garden with a variety of shrubs and fruit trees, garage, EPC=D
Offers in the region of £300,000

Halesowen

Kent Road
An opportunity to acquire a good-sized three bedroom detached house offering spacious accommodation with extensive rear garden. The property is in need of general modernisation but is full of potential and would make a desirable family home Covered entrance, entrance porch, welcoming reception hall, cloakroom, dining room, living room, kitchen, pantry, side lobby, w.c., coal store, garage, landing, w.c., bathroom, store room, three good-sized bedrooms, extensive rear garden. Gas boiler serving radiators. No upward chain. EPC=F
Offers in the region of £299,950

Oldbury

Apsley Road
* Spacious extended semi-detached house
* Extended living room * Dining room
* Extended kitchen/breakfast room
* Two bedrooms (potential to create third bedroom) * Re-fitted shower room
* Garage * Good size rear garden EPC=C
Offers in the region of £199,950

Rowley Regis

Halesowen Street
* Ideal for first time buyers or those down sizing
* Semi detached house
* Two bedrooms * Re-fitted shower room and breakfast kitchen
* Conservatory EPC=D
Offers in the region of £134,950

Halesowen

Halesowen Road
* Three bedroom house
* Full of potential
* Two reception rooms
* Extensive rear garden
* No upward chain
EPC=E
Offers in the region of £209,950

Halesowen

Chantry Drive
* Detached bungalow
* Two bedrooms
* Conservatory
* Garage
* NO UPWARD CHAIN
EPC=E
Offers in the region of £199,950

Rowley Regis

Regis Road
* Extended Semi Detached
* Three Bedrooms
* Refitted Kitchen/Breakfast Room
* Refitted Shower Room
* Garage
* Good Sized Rear Garden EPC=D
Offers in the region of £144,950

Halesowen

Hurst Green Road
* Semi-detached house situated on corner plot
* Three bedrooms
* Two reception rooms
* Off road parking
EPC=F
Offers in the region of £149,950

Halesowen

Vicarage Road
* Terraced house
* Kitchen and lobby
* Ground floor bathroom
* Three bedrooms
* Rear Garden
EPC=D
Offers in the region of £106,950

Oldbury

Oak Road
* Dining room * Living room
* Former garage/family room
* Kitchen and utility
* Bedroom two with en-suite
* Four further bedrooms
* Family bathroom EPC=D
Offers in the region of £325,000

Halesowen

King Charles Road
* Spacious traditional style semi-detached house * Two reception rooms
* Three bedrooms * Garage
* Good-sized garden * Sought after location
* Full of potential
* No upward chain EPC=E
Offers in the region of £249,950

Quinton

Upper Meadow Road
* Semi-detached house which must be viewed * Through room comprising dining room and living room
* Conservatory * Three bedrooms
* Re-fitted bathroom * Rear garage
* Delightful rear garden EPC=D
Offers in the region of £169,950

Halesowen

Beaumont Road
* Two bedroom terraced house
* Two reception rooms
* Ground floor bathroom & first floor shower room
* Rear garden
EPC=D
Offers in the region of £124,950

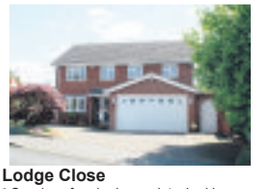
Halesowen

Narrow Lane
* Spacious Detached house
* Three reception rooms
* Study* Downstairs wc and utility
* Five bedrooms one with en-suite
* Bathroom
* Pleasant garden and garage. EPC=E
Offers in the region of £304,950

Halesowen Hurst Green

Fairfield Road
* Detached bungalow
* Block paved driveway
* Open plan kitchen/living room
* Utility
* Two bedrooms
* Shower room EPC=D
Offers in the region of £154,950

Halesowen



Lodge Close
* Spacious four bedroom detached house.
* Lounge, dining room and study.
* Two en-suites, house bathroom.
* Fitted kitchen leading to conservatory.
* Enclosed gardens
* Double garage, utility room. EPC=C
Offers in the region of £499,950

Stourbridge

Plot 1 Yardley Street
* Brand New Detached House
* Principal Bedroom with Ensuite, Two Further Bedrooms * Quality Fitted Kitchen with Host of Appliances/Dining Room
* Lounge Opening to Good-Sized Gardens
EPC=B
£207,500

Halesowen

Carters Lane
* Detached family house extended at rear
* Three reception rooms * Kitchen (utility, shower room, and store formed out of garage) * Three bedrooms
* Bathroom with separate wc
* Pleasant gardens EPC=E
Offers in the region of £275,000

Halesowen

Hagley Road West
*Deceptively Spacious Detached family home *Four good sized bedrooms
*Large lounge/dining room
*Breakfast room leading onto kitchen
*Tandem garage * Beautiful rear garden with southerly aspect EPC=F
Offers in the region of £349,950

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Well presented ideal family home is on the market

OLDBURY
£129,950 <<<

Derek Spires are inviting offers of around £129,950 for this ideal family home in Yardley Close, Oldbury.

Being a well presented town house it has part double glazed and gas centrally heated accommodation to include three bedrooms and a shower room, a hallway, a through lounge/dining room, a kitchen and a downstairs WC.

It has a neatly laid out garden to the rear and the benefit of off-street parking at rear.

The property stands back behind a pedestrian walkway, having mainly lawned foregarden with a footpath approach. In more detail the hall has wood-effect laminate flooring and storage and stairs off. One of the three bedrooms has built-in wardrobe while another has a storage cupboard.

Contact Derek Spires on 0121 4204646 or visit www.derekspiresandco.com

Mid terrace property is an ideal project home

WEST BROMWICH
£90,000

For those looking for a project, this three-bedroomed mid terrace in Herbert Street, West Bromwich requires upgrading and redecoration.

Located on the edge of the town centre, it is for sale through Paul Dubberley at £90,000 with no chain.

The property benefits from gas central heating and double glazing where specified. It briefly comprises a shared entrance passageway, a lobby, a lounge, a dining room, a rear lobby, a kitchen, a shower room, there first floor bedrooms and an enclosed garden to the rear.

Packed with potential, this home is set behind a dwarf wall and laid to hard standing leading to the shared entrance.

Contact Paul Dubberley on 0121 5252111 or visit www.pauldubberley.co.uk

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8 Tiverton Grove, Smethwick
2 Bedroom End Terraced House
Guide: £55,000-£60,000

24 Winwoods Grove, Quinton
2 Bedroom Semi Detached House
Guide: £50,000 plus

44 Allen Close, Great Barr
1 Bedroom First Floor Maisonette
Guide: £47,000-£52,000

100 Edge Street, Coseley
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Guide: £194,000-£198,000

41 Hamstead Road, Hockley
Former Office & Yard with Planning for Redevelopment to 6 Dwellings
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AUCTION
8TH SEPTEMBER 2016

123 Lots to include: at Aston Villa Football Ground

View: 31 Aug 14:45, 2 Sept 11:15 & 3 Sept 10:30

46 Pages Lane, Great Barr
A Semi Detached Property with Porch, Two Reception Rooms, Kitchen, Landing, Three Bedrooms, Bathroom with Shower, WC, Garden, Driveway Parking, Side Garage/Store, Partial Double Glazing & Central Heating.
Guide: £79,000 - £84,000

View: 31 Aug 14:00, 2 Sept 12:00 & 3 Sept 11:15

10 Delves Crescent, Walsall
A Semi Detached Property with Porch, Lobby, Reception Room, Kitchen, Landing, Two Bedrooms, Bathroom/WC with Shower, Gardens, Side Garage, Driveway Parking, part UPVC Double Glazing and Gas Central Heating.
Guide: £50,000 plus

View: 31 Aug 13:00, 2 Sept 13:00 & 3 Sept 12:15

Flat 60a Mill Road, Walsall
A First Floor Apartment, Situated in a Two Storey Block with Hall, Reception Room, Kitchen, Two Bedrooms, Shower Room/WC, Communal Gardens, Allocated Garage, Partial Double Glazing and Gas Fired Central Heating.
Guide: £19,000 - £24,000

View: 27 Aug 12:45, 31 Aug 12:00 & 2 Sept 13:45

85 Shaw Road, Coseley
3 Bed Semi Detached House
Guide: £49,000 - £54,000

View: 27 Aug 13:30, 31 Aug 12:45 & 2 Sept 13:00

3 Harvington Road, Coseley
3 Bed Detached House
Guide: £79,000 - £84,000

View: 31 Aug 9:45, 2 Sept 16:15 & 3 Sept 14:45

23 Chetwyn Rd, Wolverhampton
3 Bed Semi Detached House which may be Suitable for Conversion to Flats/HMO*
Guide: £50,000 plus

View: 27 Aug 14:15, 31 Aug 13:30 & 2 Sept 12:15

10 Ivyhouse Lane, Bilston
2 Bed Detached House with Development Potential*
Guide: £29,000 - £34,000

View: 27 Aug 11:15, 31 Aug 10:30 & 2 Sept 15:15

45 South Green, Penn
3 Bed Semi Detached House
Guide: £49,000 - £54,000

View: 27 Aug 10:30, 31 Aug 10:00 & 2 Sept 15:45

37 Claverley Drive, Penn
3 Bed Semi Detached House
Guide: £59,000 - £64,000

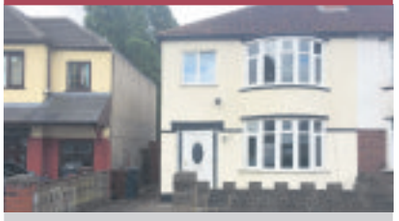
View: 27 Aug 12:00, 31 Aug 11:15 & 2 Sept 14.:30

51 Bevan Avenue, Parkfields
2 Bed Semi Detached House
Guide: £29,000 - £34,000

View: 31 Aug 12:00, 2 Sept 14:00 & 3 Sept 13:15

5 Tryon Place, Bilston
2 Bed Semi Detached House
Guide: £19,000 - £24,000

View: 31 Aug 11:15, 2 Sept 14:45 & 3 Sept 14:00



9 Bailey Road, Bilston
3 Bed Semi Detached House
Guide: £29,000 - £34,000

Viewings: The site is open for viewings

Land R/O 10 Broad St, Bilston
Development Site with Outline Planning for the Erection of 4 Flats
Guide: £15,000 - £20,000

FURTHER VIEWING APPOINTMENTS ARE AVAILABLE. FOR DETAILS CALL THE OFFICE ON 0121 233 5046

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MIDLANDS ESTATE AGENCY of the YEAR 2012 GOLD SMALL AGENCY THE SUNDAY TIMES

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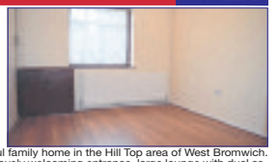
Holloway Bank, West Bromwich — TO LET



An amazing opportunity has arisen to let this beautiful family home in the Hill Top area of West Bromwich. Newly refurbished throughout the property boasts a lovely welcoming entrance, large lounge with dual aspect windows, new wooden flooring and feature wall with fire and fireplace, fitted kitchen with breakfast bar overlooking a separate dining area and a good size rear garden with off-road parking for 2 cars. Upstairs offers a family bathroom and W.C and 3 good size bedrooms all with new carpets and built in wardrobes.

£675 pcm

Caroline Street, West Bromwich — TO LET

Recently Refurbished Mid Terrace in a popular location close to all local amenities and transport links. UPVc Double Glazing & Gas Central Heating briefly comprising: Lounge, Dining Room, Re Fitted Kitchen, Lobby, Re Fitted Ground Floor Bathroom, Three Bedrooms & Rear Garden. EPC D

£600 pcm

Beaconsfield Street, West Bromwich — TO LET

Make the most of the opportunity to rent this beautiful 4 bed family home situated in a lovely cul-de-sac at the heart of West Bromwich! With 2 large reception rooms, fitted kitchen, 4 good size bedrooms, family bathroom, additional downstairs shower room and good size rear garden, this property is impressive to say the least. So call us now to arrange a viewing and fall in love!
EPC E

£750 pcm

Oak Road, West Bromwich — TO LET

REDUCED PERIOD FEATURES IMMACULATE

DO NOT MISS THE CHANCE TO LET this impressive 3 bed, end terrace house situated on a generous

£700 pcm

Whitgreave Street, West Bromwich — TO LET

Call us now to avoid missing out on this beautiful family home which has been refurbished throughout and offers 2 spacious reception rooms, fitted kitchen with oven, 3 bedrooms.family bathroom

£675 pcm

Windmill Street, Wednesbury — TO LET

A stylishly presented and superbly appointed two bedroom traditional terrace, Situated in a popular residential neighbourhood with easy access to excellent transport links this impressive property has undergone extensive refurbishment making internal viewing essential to fully appreciate the level of accommodation. Briefly comprising of Lounge, Dining Room, Modern refitted kitchen, Family bathroom, Two double bedrooms, Private rear garden. Sorry No Pets or Dss.

£625 pcm

Burnt Tree, Tipton — TO LET

End Terrace Residence with access to all local amenities briefly comprising: Reception Hall, Lounge, Breakfast Kitchen, Rear Lobby, 3 Bedrooms, Bathroom, Front & Rear Gardens.

£550 pcm

Castle Street, Wednesbury — TO LET

A well presented traditional two terrace, offering a popular location close to local amenities the property benefits from a good standard of accommodation and early viewing is advised. Briefly comprising of Lounge, Dining room,Fitted Kitchen, Ground Floor Bathrom Two Good Size Bedrooms, Rear Garden

£500 pcm

The Furlong, Wednesbury — TO LET

Well Presented Modern 3 bedroom end terrace in a popular location being centrally heated and double glazed. The accommodation briefly comprises a Reception Hall, Fitted Kitchen, Spacious Lounge, Guest Wc, 3 Bedrooms, fitted bathroom and 2 allocated parking spaces. Application fees apply to this property please call for further details.

£675 pcm

Dove Close, Wednesbury — TO LET

Modern Spacious Four Bedroom Detached in a cul de sac location close to all local amenities and transport links. UPVc Double Glazing & Gas Central Heating briefly comprising: Reception Hall, Lounge, Dining Room, Kitchen, Downstairs WC, Four Bedrooms, Bathroom, Front & Rear Gardens, Driveway & Garage.

£750 pcm

Hawkins Croft, Tipton — TO LET

Modern Well Presented End Terrace in a sought after location close to all local amenities and transport links. Double Glazing & Gas Central Heating briefly comprising: Reception Hall, Lounge, Fitted Kitchen, Two Bedrooms, Bathroom, front Driveway & Rear Garden.

£525 pcm

Kings Road, Sedgley — TO LET

Impressive two bedroom mid terrace property, offering a popular location just a short distance from Sedgley town centre which boasts excellent local amenities. The property is finished to a good standard and internal viewing is essential to fully appreciate the level of accommodation. Briefly comprising of Lounge, Dining room, Modern fitted kitchen, Family bathroom, Private rear garden, Dg and Gch

£550 pcm

Thunderbolt Way, Tipton — TO LET

Well Presented Ground floor apartment which benefits from UPVc Double Glazing and Gas Central Heating. Close to all local amenities and transport links briefly comprising: Reception Hall, Lounge, Fitted Kitchen with built in oven and hob, One Bedroom, Bathroom with shower and allocated parking.

£425 pcm

Baker Street, Tipton — TO LET

Refurbished Semi Detached in a sought after location close to all local amenities and transport links. Gas Central Heating briefly comprising: Reception Hall, Lounge, Dining Room, Re Fitted Kitchen, Three Bedrooms, Re Fitted Bathroom, Front Driveway & Good Size Rear Garden.

£650 pcm

Jonah Drive, Tipton — TO LET

Well Presented Modern Second Floor Apartment in a sought after location close to all local amenities and transport links. UPVc Double Glazing & Electric Heating briefly comprising: Reception Hall, Lounge, Modern Fitted Kitchen, Two Bedrooms, Bathroom with shower & Allocated Parking Space. Available End September

£575 pcm

David Peacock Close, Tipton — TO LET

Semi Detached Residence in a sought after location close to all local amenities and transport links. UPVc Double Glazing & Gas Central Heating: Briefly Comprising: Reception Hall, Lounge, Breakfast Kitchen, Conservatory, Two Bedrooms, En Suite Shower Room to Master, Bathroom, Front Driveway & Rear Garden. Available Now. No DSS

£600 pcm

Tudor Court, Tipton — TO LET

Well Presented First Floor Flat in a popular location close to local amenities and transport links. UPVc Double Glazing & Electric Heating briefly comprising: Entrance, Landing, Lounge, Fitted Kitchen, 2 Bedrooms & Bathroom with Shower.

£475 pcm

Dudley Road, Tipton — TO LET

Modern 2.5 storey Town House offering upvc double glazing and gas central heating. Well presented Spacious family accommodation briefly comprises, Reception Hall, Guest Cloakroom, Lounge, Fitted Kitchen, 4 Bedrooms, 2 En Suite Shower Rooms, Family Bathroom, Garage and Rear Garden.

£750 pcm

Lewis Street, Tipton — TO LET

Recently Refurbished First Floor Flat having the benefit of Re Fitted Kitchen & Shower Room and New Floor Coverings Throughout. UPVc Double Glazing & Electric Heating briefly comprising: Entrance, Lounge, Re Fitted Kitchen, One Bedroom, Re Fitted Shower Room, Rear Parking.

£425 pcm

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Appealing terrace home is a must view

WEDNESBURY
£115,000

A property that really needs to be viewed in order to be fully appreciated, this appealing three-bedroomed terrace home in Vicarage Road, Wednesbury, is for sale through Goodchilds at £115,000.

Ideal for a first time buyer or investor purchaser alike, this home is well situated. With gas central heating and double glazing and a nice long rear garden including a patio area and lawn, it has three bedrooms, a dining room, a living room, a smart and spacious kitchen with modern white units and contrasting black working surfaces and slate-effect floor tiling and a family bathroom.

The agents expect this sale to gain a lot of interest.

Contact Goodchilds on 01902 267111 or visit www.goodchilds-uk.com

Recently refurbished home has no upward chain

WEST BROMWICH
£139,950 <<<

This gorgeous three-bedroomed traditional-style semi-detached house in Oldbury Road, West Bromwich comes with a re-fitted kitchen and bathroom.

Also having new double glazing, a new boiler, off road parking and a large garden, it is for sale through Skitts at £139,950. The sale represents an excellent opportunity to acquire a family home located close to all amenities and enjoying the particular benefit of a large, level and enclosed lawned rear garden ideal for children.

It has an entrance hall, a lounge with a gas fire and a front bay window and marble-effect and stone feature fireplace with a gas fire, a kitchen/diner with a sink, wall and base units, integrated gas hob with electric oven, splash back tiling and French doors.

Contact Skitts on 0121 5202255 or visit www.skitts.net

SKITTS
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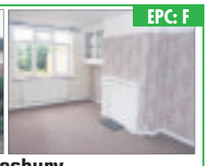
EPC: D

Cradley Heath
Manson Drive

- Four bedrooms
- Lounge
- Separate dining room
- Kitchen with oven
- Master bedroom with en-suit
- Family bathroom
- Separate downstairs

£825pcm

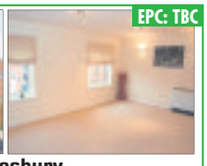


EPC: F

Wednesbury
Crankhall Lane

- Three bedroom semi
- Central heating and double glazed windows
- Lounge
- Breakfast kitchen
- Cloakroom with WC
- Veranda/sun room
- Bathroom with shower

£525pcm



EPC: TBC

Wednesbury
Blenheim Drive

- Two bed
- First floor apartment
- One reception room
- Double glazed
- Fully fitted open plan kitchen
- Off road parking
- Available immediately

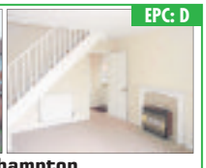
£525pcm

EPC: E

Kingswinford
Glynne Avenue

- Recently redecorated
- Three bed semi
- Fully fitted kitchen
- Double glazed
- Two double bedrooms
- Bathroom with shower
- Rear garden

£700pcm



EPC: D

Wolverhampton
Shaylor Grove

- Two bed semi
- Quiet cul-de-sac location
- Fully fitted kitchen
- Bathroom with bath and shower
- G/central heating
- Landscaped gardens

£495pcm

EPC: D

Willenhall
Deans Gate

- Ground Floor Apartment
- Two bedrooms
- Generous Lounge/ Diner with Juliet balcony
- Fitted kitchen with electric oven and hob
- Bathroom with white suite and shower over

£475pcm

NEW

EPC: D

Dudley
Zoar Street

- First floor apartment
- Gas central heating
- Double glazed accommodation
- Kitchen with cooker
- Separate dining area
- Bathroom with bath & shower

£450pcm

REDUCED

EPC: TBC

Dudley
Inhedge Street

- One bed GF apartment
- Gas central heating
- Double glazed
- Family bathroom
- Fitted kitchen with cooker
- Communal garden area
- Available immediately

£375pcm

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Rough Hill Drive, Rowley Regis

NEW

- FOUR BEDROOM DETACHED HOME
- FRESH NEUTRAL DECOR THROUGHOUT
- ENJOYING A RAISED POSITION
- EPC RATING: D
- OPEN PLAN KITCHEN/DINER
- FOUR BEDROOMS
- OUTDOOR PATIO
- GARAGE AND DRIVEWAY

Offers in Excess of £199,950.00

Highbury Road, Oldbury

NEW

- FOUR BEDROOM DETACHED PROPERTY
- OPEN PLAN LIVING ROOM AND CONSERVATORY
- MASTER BEDROOM WITH ENSUITE
- EPC RATING: D

Offers in Excess of £239,950.00

Station Road, Kings Heath

NEW

- THREE BEDROOM MID-TERRACED HOME
- LARGE OPEN PLAN LIVING AND DINING ROOM
- RECENTLY REFITTED MODERN KITCHEN/DINER
- EPC RATING: D

Offers in Excess of £224,950.00

Edgbaston Road, Smethwick

NEW

- THREE BEDROOM MODERN TERRACE
- TWO SPACIOUS RECEPTION ROOMS
- LARGE REAR GARDENS
- EPC RATING: D

Guide Price £179,950.00

Queens Road, Smethwick

NEW

- THREE BEDROOM MID-TERRACE
- WELL PRESENTED INTERNALLY
- LOVELY FRONT AND REAR GARDENS
- EPC RATING: D

Guide Price £144,950.00

Ivy House Road, Oldbury

NEW

- THREE BEDROOM SEMI-DETACHED
- TWO GROUND FLOOR RECEPTION ROOMS
- LARGE REAR GARDEN AND FRONT GARDEN
- EPC RATING: E

Offers in Excess of £124,950.00

Park Hill, Wednesbury

NEW

- TWO BEDROOM SEMI-DETACHED HOME
- THOUGHTFULLY MODERNISED THROUGHOUT
- THROUGH LOUNGE WITH FEATURE FIRE PLACE
- EPC RATING: D

Offers in Excess of £119,950.00

Amphlett Croft, Tipton

- STUNNING FOUR BEDROOM DETACHED
- DOUBLE GARAGE AND OFF ROAD PARKING
- LOCATED IN A QUIET CUL-DE-SAC
- EPC RATING: D

Offers in Excess of £279,950.00

Bhullar Way, Oldbury

- MODERN FOUR BEDROOM DETACHED
- LEASEHOLD
- OFF ROAD PARKING AND GARAGE
- EPC RATING: C

Offers in Excess of £264,950.00

Oscott Road, Perry Barr

- TWO BEDROOM END-OF-TERRACE
- TWO RECEPTION ROOMS
- RECENTLY REFITTED KITCHEN
- EPC RATING: E

Guide Price £104,950.00

The Leverretts, Handsworth

- TWO BEDROOM END-OF-TERRACE
- RECENTLY DECORATED
- GRASSY FRONT & REAR GARDENS
- EPC RATING: D

Offers in Excess of £94,950.00

Ambleside Close, Bradley

- TWO BEDROOM TERRACED HOME
- FRESH MODERN DECOR THROUGHOUT
- REAR GARDEN
- EPC RATING: D

Offers in Excess of £84,950.00

Ditta Drive, Oldbury

- THREE BEDROOM END-OF-TERRACE
- MODERN FITTED KITCHEN/ DINING ROOM
- OFF ROAD CAR PORT
- EPC RATING: B

Offers in Excess of £174,950.00

Bartleet Road, Smethwick

- PRIVATE TWO BEDROOM END-OF-TERRACE
- LOCATED AT THE END OF A QUIET CUL-DE-SAC
- SITUATED ON A LARGE PLOT OF LAND
- EPC RATING: C

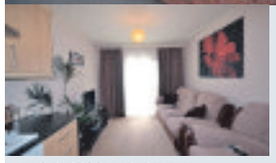
Offers in Excess of £114,950.00

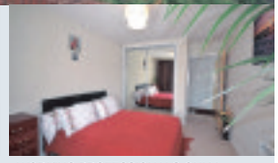
Bodenham Road, Oldbury

- FOUR BEDROOMS TERRACED
- IMPRESSIVE GARDENS
- LOVELY VIEWS
- EPC RATING: D

Guide Price £114,950.00

Jefferson Place, West Bromwich





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Symphony Court, Birmingham City Centre

- THIRD FLOOR ONE BEDROOM APARTMENT
- FULLY FURNISHED
- BEDROOMS WITH BUILT-IN CUPBOARDS
- 24/7 PRIVATE CONCIERGE

Monthly Rental Of £895.00

Sutton Road, Walsall

- THREE BEDROOM SEMI-DETACHED HOME
- WORKING PROFESSIONALS ONLY
- LANDSCAPED FRONT AND REAR GARDENS
- SPACIOUS LIVING

Monthly Rental Of £650.00

Ambleside Close, Bilston

- TWO BEDROOM TERRACED HOME
- FRESH MODERN DECOR THROUGHOUT
- REAR GARDEN
- OFF ROAD PARKING

Monthly Rental Of £485.00

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Avern Close, Tipton

• Modern End Terrace
• Gas Central Heating ● No Upward Chain
• Good Location
• 2 Bedrooms,
OFFERS AROUND:
Viewing: £97,500

Vernon Avenue, Tipton

• Semi Detached Family Home
• Upvc Double Glazing ● No Upward Chain
• Porch ● Reception hall
• 3 Bedrooms, EPC E
OFFERS AROUND:
Viewing: £105,000

Clover Piece, Tipton

• Modern Semi Detached
• Superbly Presented Accommodation
• Upvc Double Glazing ● Gas Central Heating
• 2 Bedrooms, EPC D
OFFERS AROUND:
Viewing: £110,000

Warren Close, Tipton

• Purpose Built Flat
• Ground Floor
• No Upward Chain
• 1 Bedroom, epc D
OFFERS AROUND:
Viewing: £40,000

Mytton Grove, Tipton

Modern Middle Terrace Situated On A Sought After Development and Being Ideal For a First Time Buyer. Having the benefit of upvc Double Glazing, Gas Central Heating and Good Size Well Presented
OFFERS AROUND:
Viewing: £112,500

Rugeley Close, Tipton

• Superb Modern Second Floor Apartment
• Upvc Double Glazing ● Electric Heating
• Excellent Canal Views
• 1 Bedroom, EPC C
OFFERS AROUND:
Viewing: £60,000

Scott Street, Tipton

• Large Modern Semi Detached
• Spacious Family Accommodation
• Upvc Double Glazing ● Gas Central Heating
• 6 Bedrooms, EPV C
OFFERS AROUND:
Viewing: £245,000

Cotterills Road, Tipton

• Truly Outstanding Middle Terrace
• Immaculate Vastly Improved
• Upvc Double Glazing ● Gas Central Heating
• 3 Bedrooms, EPC C
OFFERS AROUND:
Viewing: £115,000

Field Road, Tipton

• Extended Semi Detached Family Home
• Upvc Double Glazing ● Gas Central Heating
• Superb Corner Plot ● Extension To Rear
• 3 Bedrooms, EPC D
OFFERS AROUND:
Viewing: £140,000

Dawn Drive, Tipton

• Modern Extended Detached
• Upvc Double Glazing ● Gas Central Heating
• Sought After Location
• 3 Bedrooms, EPC D
OFFERS AROUND:
Viewing: £155,000

Warren Close, Tipton

• Superb Ground Floor Flat
• Viewing Recommended
• UPVc Double Glazing ● Gas Central Heating
• 2 Bedrooms,
OFFERS AROUND:
Viewing: £84,950

Bilston Road, Tipton

• Traditional Detached Bungalow
• Upvc Double Glazing ● Gas Central Heating
• Reception Hall
• 2 Bedrooms, EPC E
OFFERS AROUND:
Viewing: £110,000

CALL NOW FOR A FREE VALUATION

Hobs Road, Wednesbury

A MUCH IMPROVED & WELL PRESENTED TRADITIONAL FAMILY HOME BEING OFFERED WITH NO ONGOING CHAIN - Accommodation includes three bedrooms, a lounge & dining area, impressive
OFFERS AROUND:
Viewing: £142,500

Dove Close, Wednesbury

DETACHED MODERN RESIDENCE SET IN CUL-DE-SAC LOCATION & BENEFITING FROM NO CHAIN - Family accommodation featuring four bedrooms, first floor bathroom, lounge, dining room,
OFFERS AROUND:
Viewing: £174,995

Longcroft Avenue, Wednesbury

NO UPWARD CHAIN! A MODERN STYLE DETACHED PROPERTY OFFERING ACCOMMODATION PRESENTED TO A HIGH STANDARD & BENEFITING FROM A GARAGE. Further featuring
OFFERS AROUND:
Viewing: £170,000

Boswell Close, Wednesbury

A SPACIOUS DETACHED FAMILY RESIDENCE OFFERING WELL ADAPTED & VERSATILE ACCOMMODATION POSITIONED WITHIN A CUL-DE-SAC LOCATION. The property features four
OFFERS AROUND:
Viewing: £190,000

Friar Park Road, Wednesbury

A RECENTLY IMPROVED & HUGELY VERSATILE MODERN FAMILY HOME WITH SPACIOUS ACCOMMODATION ARRANGED OVER THREE FLOORS. Offered with no chain the property fea-
OFFERS AROUND:
Viewing: £175,000

Hall Street, Wednesbury

A MODERN GROUND FLOOR APARTMENT WHICH MAY SUIT A FIRST TIME PURCHASER OR LANDLORD - Accommodation includes two bedrooms, a lounge, modern kitchen & bathroom.
OFFERS AROUND:
Viewing: £69,500

Yew Tree Lane, Wednesbury — NEW

A MUCH IMPROVED & SUPERBLY PRESENTED SEMI DETACHED HOME OCCUPYING A POSITION WITHIN THE SOUGHT AFTER GOLF LINKS AREA OF WEDNESBURY - The property which
OFFERS AROUND:
Viewing: £155,000

Windsor Walk, Wednesbury — NEW

AN EXTENDED & WELL PRESENTED END TERRACE RESIDENCE FOR WHICH VIEWING IS ESSENTIAL. Accommodation features three bedrooms, a well proportioned lounge & dining area,
OFFERS AROUND:
Viewing: £150,000

Galahad Way, Wednesbury

A 1st floor 2 bedroom apartment. The flat is offered on a 50% SHARED OWNERSHIP basis and benefits double glazing (where specified) and has accommodation to include; reception hall,lounge,
OFFERS AROUND:
Viewing: £35,000

Grafton Road, West Bromwich

• !st Floor Apartment
• Open Plan Lounge / Kitchen
• Double Bedroom
• , Bathroom
OFFERS AROUND:
Viewing: £77,500

Mason Street, West Bromwich

An opportunity to acquire an improved 3 bedroom mid terrace house located in a cul de sac close to West Bromwich Town Centre. The property benefits from Gas Central Heating and UPVC double glaz-
OFFERS AROUND:
Viewing: £104,995

Claypit Lane, West Bromwich

• New Property
• 3 Bedroom Semi Detached
• Master with Ensuite
• , Fitted Kitchen
OFFERS AROUND:
Viewing: £175,000

Gladys Terrace, Smethwick

• Mid Terrace
• 2 bedrooms
• Dining Room
• , Lounge
OFFERS AROUND:
Viewing: £115,000

Junction Road, Birmingham

• End Terrace House
• 3 Bedrooms
• Lounge/Diner
• , Refitted Kitchen
OFFERS AROUND:
Viewing: £134,500

Wordsworth Street, West Bromwich

• End Terrace
• 3 Bedrooms
• Entrance Porch, Through Hallway
• , Extended Kitchen
OFFERS AROUND:
Viewing: £110,000

Mason Street, West Bromwich

• Mid Terrace
• 3 Bedrooms
• Lounge, Dining Room
• , Kitchen
OFFERS AROUND:
Viewing: £90,000

Oak Lane, West Bromwich

• Mid Town House
• 3 Bedrooms
• Porch, Through Hallway
• , Dining Room, Lounge
OFFERS AROUND:
Viewing: £159,995

Adelaide Avenue, West Bromwich

• Extended Semi Detached
• Three Bedrooms
• Lounge/Diner
• , Garage to Rear
OFFERS AROUND:
Viewing: £130,000

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Kinsey Road, SMETHWICK,

Ground floor modern apartment comprising, entrance hallway, two double bedrooms, fitted bathroom, open plan living/dining/kitchen, double glazed and electric heating, allocated parking, communal grounds. NO ONWARD CHAIN!!

Offers Around £109,950

Pargeter Road, BEARWOOD,

Terraced property comprising, vestibule, through lounge, refitted kitchen, ground floor bathroom, three bedrooms, upstairs toilet, double glazed and centrally heated, front and rear gardens. NO ONWARD CHAIN!

Offers Around £185,000

Cape Hill, SMETHWICK,

Second floor modern apartment comprising, hallway, two bedrooms (master en-suite), bathroom, open plan living/kitchen/dining, fitted kitchen, balcony, D/G and C/H, communal grounds, allocated parking.

Offers Around £109,950

Beakes Road, BEARWOOD,

Spacious three storey terraced property with many original features comprising, vestibule, entrance hallway, two reception rooms, fitted kitchen, utility room, three double bedrooms, spacious bathroom with separate shower, DRIVEWAY!

Offers Around £169,950

Parkes Street, SMETHWICK,

Terraced property with viewing highly recommended comprising, two reception rooms, open plan re-fitted kitchen, extended bathroom with separate shower, three bedrooms, double glazed and centrally heated, front and rear gardens.

Offers Around £110,000

West Park Road, SMETHWICK,

Comprising, porch, hallway, two reception rooms, refitted kitchen/diner, cloakroom, four bedrooms, refitted bathroom with separate shower, D/G and C/H, driveway, large rear garden.

Offers Around £255,000

Windsor Avenue, OLDBURY,

Beautifully presented family home comprising; porch, through lounge, refitted breakfast kitchen, utility room, conservatory, three double bedrooms (master-en-suite), refitted family bathroom, driveway, garage, rear garden, D/G and C/H.

Offers Around £235,000

ARE YOU LOOKING TO SELL?
CALL NOW FOR YOUR FREE VALUATION!

Park Mews, SMETHWICK,

Ground floor apartment comprising, open plan living/kitchen/dining, double bedroom, fitted bathroom, D/G and C/H, communal grounds and parking. IDEAL INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITY!! Currently rented at £450 PCM

Offers Around £89,950

Sydenham Road, SMETHWICK,

Terraced property comprising, hallway, two reception rooms, fitted kitchen, ground floor bathroom, three bedrooms, double glazed and centrally heated, front and rear gardens. NO ONWARD CHAIN!!!

Offers Around £100,000

Capethorn Road, SMETHWICK,

Mid terraced property comprising, two reception rooms, refitted extended kitchen, utility room, two double bedrooms, spacious upstairs bathroom, double glazed and centrally heated, rear garden. NO ONWARD CHAIN!!

Offers Around £114,950

Thimblemill Road, BEARWOOD,

An immaculate, greatly improved semi detached property comprising, hallway, cloakroom, reception room, open plan kitchen/diner, conservatory, two double bedrooms, refitted shower room, D/G and C/H, driveway, rear garden.

Offers Around £159,950

St Matthews Road, OLDBURY,

Three Bedroom Terrace; comprising, entrance hallway, through lounge, fitted kitchen, three bedrooms, upstairs shower room, warm air heating, double glazing, front and rear gardens, driveway. IDEAL FIRST PURCHASE!

Offers Around £129,950

Thomas Crescent, SMETHWICK,

Spacious town house offered with no chain comprising, three bedrooms, two reception rooms, refitted dining kitchen, bathroom, D/G and C/H where specified, front and rear gardens, parking.

Offers Around £109,950

Holly Lane, SMETHWICK,

Porch, two reception rooms, refitted kitchen and utility, refitted ground floor shower room, three bedrooms, refitted bathroom with separate shower, D/G and C/H, double and single garage.

Offers Around £219,950

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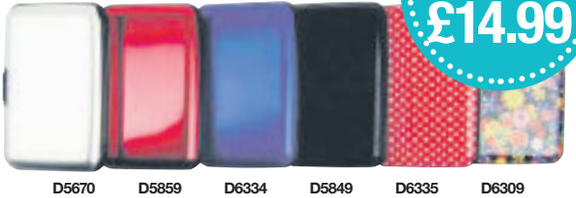

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12 years experience.
SINGLE ITEMS TO FULL LOADS.
LOCAL OR DISTANCE. FULLY INSURED.
Free Quotes - Call Ric on:
07771 727119

A MAN WITH A VAN Single items, flat/house removals/clearances, local/nationwide. Call Steve 0121 422 2999 or 07815 043724

CALL DEAN NOW: For all your Removal needs. 07429 453209/ 01902 830870 / 01384 940260.

CALL PETE - MAN WITH A VAN, Removals, clearances, large/small. 01902 741546, 07899 635852.

roofing

MG ROOFING Flat roofs, tiling, roof repairs, fascias and gutters. Call 01902 238989 / 07580 465449.

skip hire

A absolute affordable skip
RUSSELL SKIPS
Mini, midi skips
Prompt delivery / collection
(0121) 520 3388 / 07721 387990

ClassifiedAds
BUY LOCAL, SELL LOCAL

GRINSELLS SKIP HIRE

IT WORKS FOR ME

Thanks to our Classified advertising in the Express & Star we are really busy! It definitely works for us!

Grinsells Skip Hire.

FOR GREAT BUSINESS RESULTS CALL
01902 319 191
Brought to you by **Express & Star**

BLITZ SKIPS
AFFORDABLE SKIPS
2-50 YARD SKIPS AVAILABLE
MON-SAT 7AM-6PM
01902 870370
0121 517 1111

Champion Skip Hire
West Birmingham and Black Country Skip Hire
Call us today on 0121 291 2096
Cheap as skips

GOLDSHILL SKIPS
Bring your own waste cheaper than skips. General, Green, Wood waste any size vehicle. Phone for prices:
0121 557 3346

STONES SKIP HIRE
0121 557 1480 / 07886 721875
www.stoneskiphire.co.uk

tree services

BUDGET TREE SURGERY Tall or small. Conifers & hedge trimming. Shrubs pruned, tidy ups & make overs 01215053558/ 07936882552

4 Pets & Animals

equestrian corner

ALL READERS are advised to check if Horses have the required Passport information.

guns & dogs

NOTICE TO ADVERTISERS
Advertisers must ensure that they meet all necessary legal requirements for owning and using guns.

AIR RIFLES, SHOT GUNS, Antique guns, taxidermy- big bore guns, traps etc wanted. 07968 624202

pets corner

NOTICE TO READERS
Please be aware that when purchasing a puppy there are some simple guidelines you can follow to ensure that you are not purchasing from a Puppy Farmer:
1. Try to ensure you visit the puppy whilst it is still with it's Mother.
2. Do not arrange to collect a puppy from any other location than that of the breeder.
3. Ensure that you are given any KC documentation, if pedigree.
Whilst Midland News Association publications take great care to avoid publication of advertisements from Puppy Farmers we cannot accept any liability should readers purchase from this kind of establishment.

GERMAN SHEPHERD CROSS MALE 9 wks old, microchipped, vaccinated, big and fluffy, well socialised, puppy pack. £300. 07454 473783 / 01902 491034.

JASPER AND FREYA
Affectionate Brother and Sister three year old tabby Cats, neutered, looking for a permanent home.
07754 008263.

vets

Express & Star
THIS SPACE COULD BE PROMOTING YOUR BUSINESS

Every day our customers get a great response from Classified Advertising.

So could you by calling our friendly experienced Sales Advisors on 01902 319191.

5 Business & Farming

business directory

commercial premises

UNITS AND OFFICE SPACE to let in Oldbury, West Bromwich and Walsall. Easy Terms. Ashmore Properties 0121 520 5318.

6 Property

accommodation to let

NOTICE TO READERS It is an offence under the Accommodation Agencies Act 1953, for an Agency to charge a fee simply for the registration of your requirements and/or supplying particulars of premises to let.

ROOMS & STUDIOS from £65pw inc most bills, no deposit, available immediately! 07884 185580.

SUPERIOR BEDSIT DUDLEY. Refurb'd to high standard. £70p/w, 07581 003289, 01384 253052.

THREE BED, Hilton Close, Bloxwich, CH, unfurnished, £475pcm. 07719 323394.

TWO BED FLAT Great Wyrley, furnished kitchen, no DSS or smokers, £475pcm. 07836 780188.

houses for sale

HEATH HAYES
Open House, August 20 and 21, 10am - 4pm.
21 Heath Way, Heath Hayes, Cannock, WS11 7WA.
2 bed, GCH, DG, off road parking. A must view.
£105,000 ono.
07886 477574.

properties wanted

EVERY TIME!

WE PAY 100% of purchase price

BLACK COUNTRY HOMES

We buy any house

- FAMILY BUSINESS
- FAST FRIENDLY SERVICE
- COMPLETION TO SUIT YOU
- NO FEES/FREE SOLICITORS

WE ALSO BUY LAND

30 yrs

0800 999 999 6

or 01902 628047 24/7 www.black-countryhomes.co.uk

Home Cash Buyer

Sell today, sign today, complete when u wish

£££ RENT BACK OPTIONS £££

Houses / Land Required

Ring Paul 24/7 Local 07870 341 089

Sandwell area: Call 0121 696 4154
Walsall & Cannock area: Call 01922 432049
Wolverhampton: Call 01902 489901
www.homecashbuyer.co.uk

Need to sell your home fast?

Purchase Agreed Within 7 DAYS

We can help you make a fresh start

With solutions to suit ...

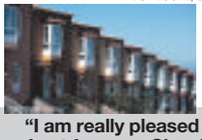
you can clear your debts and make a fresh start

- ALL CIRCUMSTANCES CONSIDERED
- COMPLETE ON DATE TO SUIT
- FREE VALUATION AND LEGALS
- FREE FRIENDLY ADVICE
- LOCAL COMPANY

MARION | PROPERTY SOLUTIONS

WHY NOT CALL US TODAY
for an informal, friendly and confidential chat?
0121 405 0767 OUR LINES ARE OPEN 24/7
*Terms and Conditions apply

ClassifiedAds
BUY LOCAL, SELL LOCAL



IT WORKS FOR ME

"I am really pleased with the response I get from my Classified Advertising!"
Paul Westwood - Home Cash Buyer

FOR GREAT BUSINESS RESULTS CALL 01902 319 191
Brought to you by Express & Star

overseas property

NOTICE TO READERS
Readers are advised to seek independent legal advice before entering into any financial commitments.

7 Jobs

building & construction

CLASS 2 DRIVER/SCAFFOLDER 7.5 tonne drivers/scaffolders, carded scaffolders, gangs, for good long term contracts Call Clint 07739 526252 / 0800 141 2010

INDUSTRIAL ROOFING OPERATIVE
Industrial/commercial roofing only i.e sheeting, felting, liquid coatings, single ply etc.
Ideally located close to **West Bromwich**
Must have at least 1 years roofing experience. CSCS card holder and driving licence preferred.
Working Hours:
8.00am-5.00pm Mon-Thu & 8.00am-4.00pm Fri
£330 per week plus production bonus.
Call 0121 500 6181
or email
info@totalroofcontrol.co.uk

SKILLED FABRICATOR /WELDER permanent position.Tipton area. Call 0121 520 4960

courses

MTS HGV training, Willenhall. Minibus, 7.5 tonne C1 & car & trailer 01902 866510 / 07807 035066

drivers

HGV CLASS 2 DRIVER general haulage, UK work, good rates. 07973 493720

engineering

Due to on-going expansion DRB Engineering Ltd are looking to recruit additional employees in the following areas:

Production Supervisor
Toolmaker
Quality Inspector

Experience of working in Tier 1 or 2 supplier to the automotive sector would be advantageous

Apply in writing to D R B Engineering Ltd 71-75 NEW SUMMER ST, BIRMINGHAM B19 3TE, U.K. or email kate@drbengineering.com

POWER PRESS SETTER /OPERATOR Experienced setter/operator required. Experience in similar position on mechanical and hydraulic presses 25T to 200T setting progression and deep drawing tools essential. Email cv sales@bracebridgeengineering.co.uk or in writing to address below. Company details:
Bracebridge Engineering Ltd
75-97 Walsall Road
Perry Barr
Birmingham
B42 1TX

full time - general

BROMFORD IRON & STEEL (HOT ROLLING MILL) REQUIRE. MAINTENANCE TECHNICIAN
with electrical bias but also some fitting / welding skills. Electrical Qualifications; 17th Edition, City &Guilds 1&2. An experienced fault finder is a must. DC and PLC knowledge would be advantageous. Shift patterns will include days / nights for which overtime is paid at premium
Applications to Andrew Rich Bromford Iron & Steel Bromford Lane Oldbury B70 7JJ

COUGAR

CCTV CONTROLLERS - Cradley Heath

Cougar Monitoring are currently recruiting for CCTV Controllers at our state of the art facility in Cradley Heath. With a strong focus on customer service, successful applicants will be required to work methodically under pressure.

Working a shift pattern of mixed nights, days and weekends, Controllers will be required to work 12 hour shifts within a busy and professional security environment. 42 hours per week on average (overtime available), rate of pay 7.50 per hour, salary range 16k- 18k.

SIA Licence and experience preferred but not essential, as full training will be provided.

Duties include:
- CCTV, Intruder & Fire Alarm Monitoring
- Communicating effectively with staff, customers and emergency services
- Completing detailed reports (computer based)

The successful candidate will have the following attributes:
- Excellent communication skills
- Ability to work to deadlines and prioritise
- Good computer skills

The successful applicant will be subject to security screening to BS7858.

Please submit a full CV via email to: sroberts@cougarmonitoring.com for an immediate interview

Cougar Monitoring Ltd, Sapcote Trading Centre, Powke Lane, Cradley Heath B64 5QR

Community Transport Passenger Services

VACANCIES

RENAL PASSENGER MINIBUS DRIVERS
BLACK COUNTRY
32 hours per week (annualised hours), morning and afternoon shifts, including regular Saturdays, permanent £7.85 per hour
D1 entitlement essential. Will include assisting wheelchair users (training will be provided).
For info and application packs, contact HR on 01422 376881 or hr@communitytransport.org.
The closing date for applications is Friday 2nd September at 12.00noon.
Community Transport is an equal opportunities employer

8 Motoring

cars over £1500

SELLING YOUR CAR?

We have a package to suit every budget.
Packages start from as little as
£21.00 for 6 nights
Plus
6 nights free if you do not sell.
CALL 01902 317878

MAZDA MX5, 1991 Classic. Quite good condition, £1,650. o.n.o. Phone for details 01922 479743.

NISSAN QASHQUI N-TEC Black, 2010, 46,000 miles, MoT, Sat Nav, reversing camera, tinted windows, sunroof, s/h, lady owner from new.
£7,250.
Telephone 01922 628176.

PEUGEOT 207
1.4 SE hatchback, 2006, CIELO panoramic roof, tinted glass, manual petrol, 83,000 miles, MoT Feb 2017, AC, computer, EW, blue met, well maintained, new exhaust, clutch, tyres, very good condition
£1,750 ono.
01785 780536/07778 404924.

VW BEETLE LUNA 2007, very good condition, 38,000 miles, red, abs, electric windows, electric mirrors, alarm, MoT, central locking, pas, alloys, stereo, CD, MP3.
£4,000.
01785 823175.

cars under £1500

BMA Est. Here 25 Years
WIDE range of quality affordable priced cars starting from £500
Full MOT you won't be disappointed
OPEN EVERY DAY
07956 988517
Dale Street, Bilston, WV14 7JY

ADVERTISERS ARE REMINDED that the Business Advertisements (Disclosure) Order of 1977 requires that advertisements must clearly differentiate between Private and Trade.

CITROEN BERLINGO VAN LX new shape, 04, diesel, full MoT, some history, only £475. 07486 465406.

CITROEN PICASSO diesel, 2002, all MoT's, MoT November, receipts for £926, any trial, £795. PX considered. 01922 684503.

FORD FIESTA 08, 69,000 miles, MoT July 17, very good condition, front windows Elec, a/c, CL, £1,500. 0783 8897643.

FORD FIESTA 1.4, 03 reg, 5-dr, diesel, MoT Oct, good runner, £575 ono. 07787 932901.

FORD FIESTA 2004 (AV), 5dr, MoT 2017, low mileage, PAS, electric windows, excellent condition, £685. 0121 384 7888.

HONDA JAZZ 53 reg., 5-dr hatch, petrol, 1339cc, 1.4, green, MoT Mar 2017, good runner, only £850. PX welcome. 07956 134518.

HYUNDAI ACCENT, 2002, 108,000 miles, petrol, silver, 5 months MoT, good runner, £350 ono. 07813 162522.

PEUGEOT 106 Independance, 1.1 3dr, 02 reg, blue, only 69k, previous MoT's, lady owner, 11 months MoT, like new, only £595. 07963 464780.

PEUGEOT 207 S 2006, lovely condition, 103k, full MoT, 1400cc, blue. £1,250. 0785 4128722.

PEUGEOT 306 1.4, (X), 2000, 5 dr, silver, Meridian, PAS, E/W, full MoT, 3 owners, excellent throughout. £525 ono. 07794 450416.

SUZUKI VITARA 1600 Sport, petrol, blue, 55 plate, £650. 07941 148932. Pelsall area.

VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.6 SXi, 56, full MoT, Service history, 1 previous owner, nice condition, £895. 07570 466779.

VAUXHALL ASTRA SXi 3dr, 2005, petrol, MoT March 2017, 107,000 miles, silver, good conditon and runner, £1,400 ono. 07796 281478.

VAUXHALL CORSA 1.2i 16V design, 2005, hatchback, silver, manual, petrol, 3dr, full MoT, AUX Connectivity, fully loaded, MP3, alloys £1,000ono. Sold as seen, 07890 367533.

VW PASSAT ESTATE full MoT, V reg, 1.8 petrol, £450 ono. 07975 567939.

commercial vehicles

VAUXHALL COMBO CDTi VAN, 11 months MoT, excellent condition inside and out. £995. Telephone 07495 284545.

driving tuition

Homer's
10 Hours £89! Five Hours £50! 2 Hours £20! All Areas Covered
ADI/PDI REQUIRED. Gift vouchers available for £10
07432 458100 / 01562 870050
01384 234954 / 0121 5640090
01902 580065 www.homersdrivingschool.co.uk

motorbikes

HONDA VT125 SHADOW. Very good condition. MoT'd, £1,250. Phone for details 01922 479743.

scrap vehicles

OUR ADVERTISERS are reminded that it is an offence under the Scrap Metal Dealers Act 2013 to buy scrap cars/metal for cash.

MCB
TOP PRICES PAID FOR ALL SCRAP CARS, VANS, BIKES, CLASSICS
Tel: 01902 408176
1000's of parts available at all times
MONMORE RD. WV1 2TZ

ABC AUTO SALVAGE WANTED URGENT
Scrap & MOT Failures Best Prices Paid ELV Registered Spares Always Available
0121 557 0800 or 0121 557 0400. Evening 07813 184611 Oldbury Area.

vehicles wanted

A1 AUTOS WANTED
CARS, VANS, 4x4s, SCRAP, MoT FAILURES, ANY CONDITION £50-£10,000
WE BUY QUALITY USED CARS
07527 303 336
(24/7, any area) T&C Apply

CROWN MOTORS guarantee best price for your unwanted cars/vans. 07903 549849, buyer will call.

9 Local Information

public & legal notices

SANDWELL METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL
Regeneration and Economy
Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended)
Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990
Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order 2015

I hereby give notice that Sandwell Council has received the following applications under the planning acts which it is required to give public notice for the reason given at the beginning of each group of applications.

This is a major application.

The proposed development does not accord with the provisions of the Development Plan in force in the area in which it is situated.

DC/16/59714	Mr Justin Howell Countryside Properties	Former Norbert Dentressangle Site Doulton Road Rowley Regis B65 8JG	Demolition of existing buildings and construction of 188 dwellings with associated access, public open space, acoustic fence, balancing pond and landscaping.

The proposed development does not accord with the provisions of the Development Plan in force in the area in which it is situated.

DC/16/59751	Mr Jon Caulwell Earls Gymnastics Centre	Unit 1 Wharfside Oldbury B69 2BU	Proposed change of use to gymnastics club (Class D2).

This is a major application.

DC/16/59631	Mrs Rebecca Fisher Ormiston Forge Academy	Academy Wrights Lane Cradley Heath B64 6QU	Variation of condition 2 of temporary planning permission – DC/14/57059. Proposed use of astro turf pitch on Saturdays and Sundays between 10.00 and 16.00 hours for an extended period.

This is a major application.

DC/16/59746	Mr Jes Jutla Darlaston Builders Merchants	Darlaston Builders Merchants Black Lake West Bromwich B70 0PL	Renewal of temporary consent DC/14/57278 for change of use to builders merchants with ancillary showroom.

Members of the public may inspect copies of these applications at Council House, Freeth Street, Oldbury, West Midlands, B69 3DE (between 8.00a.m. and 5.30p.m. Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, 9.00a.m. and 5.30p.m. Wednesday and 8.00a.m. to 5p.m. Friday) or via the Council's Public Access website (www.sandwell.gov.uk).

Anyone who wishes to make representations about these applications can do so via the website, or should write to the Council at the above address within 21 days (and 21 days for Listed Building or Conservation Area consent) of the date of this advertisement quoting the application reference number.

MR NICK BUBALO, Area Director – Regeneration and Economy

MNA Media

Are you customer focused? Want to progress into sales?

The MNA, publishers of the Express & Star and Shropshire Star, is looking for talented people to join its sales across the West Midlands and Shropshire. The role involves advising and selling response focused advertising solutions to a diverse range of businesses across our newspaper and digital portfolio.

Key responsibilities and skills should ideally include:

- The ability to develop a firm business relationship with customers
- Be able to generate new business
- The desire to exceed minimum sales targets
- Be creative and articulate
- Be able to identify the best advertising opportunities that will enhance a customer's marketing response.

You will already have a proven track record in sales, or have high levels of customer service skills. However, if you feel you have an outgoing and friendly personality and would like the opportunity to move into a fast paced business, then we can train you to succeed in the role.

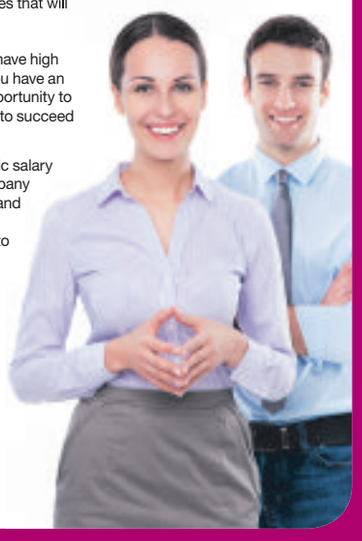
Once fully qualified, you can expect to earn a good basic salary and an attractive OTE potential. Benefits include a company car for Field Sales, five weeks paid holiday, full training and ongoing side by side coaching. There are good career prospects for the right candidates to progress through to Senior Sales Consultants within the team.

Please send your C.V., along with a covering letter to:

Personnel Department
Midland News Association
51-53 Queen Street
Wolverhampton
WV1 1ES

Or apply by email to: hr@mnamedia.co.uk

Closing date: 31st August 2016.



Owners of Express & Star Ltd and Shropshire Newspapers Ltd

Express & Star Shropshire STAR

Classified Ads

SANDWELL METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

The Borough Council of Sandwell (Crankhall Lane, Wednesbury) (Temporary Road Closure) Order 2016, intends to temporarily prohibit any vehicles from proceeding along Crankhall Lane, Wednesbury between Freeman Road and the south side of Kier Road. The maximum duration is 18 months, but the work is expected to be completed by 08/11/16, effective from 06/09/16. Traffic will be diverted via Manor Road, Freeman Road and vice-versa. Purpose – works to repair a collapsed sewer by Amey (on behalf of Severn Trent Water).

The Borough Council of Sandwell (Wrights Lane, Cradley Heath) (Temporary Road Closure) Order 2016, intends to temporarily prohibit any vehicles from proceeding along Wrights Lane, Cradley Heath between Cherry Orchard and the boundary of Temple Meadow Primary School. The maximum duration is 18 months, but the work is expected to be completed by 07/10/16, effective from 08/09/16. Traffic will be diverted via Highgate Street, Heathfield Way, Station Road and vice-versa. Purpose – gas main replacement works and service connections by Balfour Beatty (on behalf of National Grid Gas).

SANDWELL METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

The Borough Council of Sandwell (Tollhouse Way, Smethwick) (Temporary closure of the south east bound carriageway) Order 2016, has made an Order to temporarily prohibit any vehicles from proceeding along Tollhouse Way other than in a north westerly direction between Telford Way and Rolfe Street. The maximum duration is 18 months, the road closure is expected to be closed for one night only on 27th/28th August 2016 (21.00hrs – 09.00hrs). South east bound traffic will be diverted via Fenton Street and High Street. Purpose – the lifting by crane of a new building onto Network Rail land.

LEGAL & PUBLIC NOTICES

For convenience you may fax any advertising requirements to

Marie Hogg

on

01902 713146

or

email marie.hogg@expressandstar.co.uk

(remember to include a name/contact number for confirmation of receipt)

10 Personals

personal

GENUINE LADY
Would like to meet male or female for days out, holidays. Must be genuine, honest and down to earth.
All areas considered.
Box Number P20503 ,
Express and Star,
Queen Street,
Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.

LADY MID 50'S
Requires companion for days out and to share mutual interests.
Enjoys nature, birdwatching, cinema, theatre and meals out.
In and around Walsall area.
Box Number P20497 ,
Express and Star,
Queen Street,
Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.

general

BURIAL PLOT FOR SALE
Bloxwich North,
£900.
07522 953754.

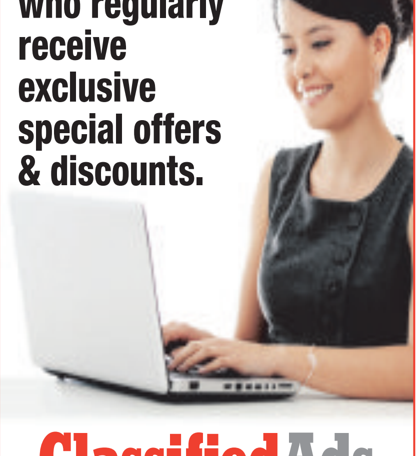
WANTED BURIAL PLOT Field Road, Bloxwich Cemetery.
01922 646090 or 07873 788810.

HAVE YOU CHECKED your advertisement today? We would respectfully remind advertisers that it is their responsibility to inform the publishers of any mistakes or inaccuracies on the first day of publication.

BOOK YOUR ADVERTISEMENTS OR FAMILY ANNOUNCEMENTS ONLINE AT

bookanad. expressandstar.co.uk

and become one of hundreds of customers who regularly receive exclusive special offers & discounts.

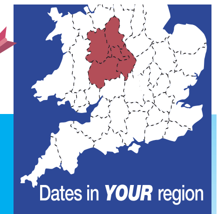


Classified Ads

Express & Star DATING

YOUR regional dating service, run by the dating experts who have been established since 1990. **REAL people in YOUR region**

Try it.. You'll love it!



Here's how to use your dating service ...

To ***Place*** your advert call:
0844 381 5936
and follow the simple instructions

To ***Place*** your ad by text
Simply text **REG** followed by your first name, date of birth, area and your advert (max 155 characters) and send to **80098 FREE** Standard Network rates apply.

YOU can now ***Date ONLINE*** or via your mobile just visit:
http://dating.expressandstar.com

To ***Reply*** to members call:
0906 500 3955
calls cost £1.55 per min plus your phone company's access charge.
Have the adverts 6-digit box no written down and do ***key-it-in promptly*** when asked. Don't forget to leave contact details for replies.

To ***Reply*** by text:
***Text...* REPLY26** (leave space) box number (leave space) and then enter your message & send to **80098** eg: **REPLY26** 123456 **hi get in touch...** then send to **80098** Successfully received messages cost £1.50 per SMS received (Max 160 characters). You must exchange 7 messages each before you can swap contact details. Messages may be moderated for your safety and security.

Been left a message? ***Pickup*** your replies on:
0906 500 3957
calls cost £1.55 per min plus your phone company's access charge.

THE biggest UK on-line database of 17 million UK REAL users waiting to meet ***you..*** ***visit..*** **http://dating.expressandstar.com**

Single Women

REMEMBER: Calls cost £1.55 per minute plus your phone company's access charge. Texts cost £1.50 per message received.

PAULINE attractive petite nurse, loves evenings in/out, looking for honest male to share loving friendship and good times. Discretion expected/assured. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 379535**

VERY attractive intelligent blonde, 59, WLTM tall attractive solvent man. No Tattoos. South Yorks. **Text only Mailbox: 5430085**

55 year old female looking for friendship, meals out, coffee, chats, work part time and carer for parent. **Text only Mailbox: 5517508**

VERY attractive blonde lady, own house in lovely village, loves travel, entertaining, exercise, would like to meet tall attractive solvent male. **Text only Mailbox: 5430085**

CAROLINE, slim attractive 40's fit female, OHAC, divorced and ready to be romanced again, seeks similar minded male. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 423301**

LINDA, 58, lonely lady, likes walks in the countryside and meals out, WLTM a gentleman, 59-64, n/s, Coventry area. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 423547**

KATIE 35yrs, slender well educated brunette seeks no strings mutual pleasure with gent 40+ Must be discreet, married or single. ACA. **Tel: 0906 515 3003 Box 419673**

CARRIE single 29yr old slim pretty Care Assistant, looking for a fun guy for nights in/out, good times, love and laughter. Give me a ring. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 423489**

KIM, 32yrs, attractive blonde lady seeks discreet gent for daytime distractions. Aca. **Tel: 0906 515 3007 Box 421657**

BEV 32, 5ft, petite, very pretty, trendy with a great figure and big personality, loves animals, children and WLTM fun male to be my soul mate. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 423473**

JANE, young 41, very broadminded seeks chap any age for discreet no strings fun, any age, no time wasters ACA. **Tel: No: 0906 515 3011 Box: 409715**

CAROL, 38, slim gorgeous brunette with lots of interests looking to put some romance back into life, seeking willing male to spoil rotten and love. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 423439**

KERRY, 35yrs, married in open relationship, attractive, tall, slim and very presentable. Seeks discreet gent any age for casual pleasurable encounters. **Tel: 0906 515 3043 Box 422363**

MELINDA, 52yrs, attractive and broad minded seeking chap any age for some fun. Couples also. **Text Only Box: 4050295**

JESS, pretty blonde lady. 29yrs, feminine and caring. Loves older mature men who are worldly wise. Looks unimportant must have GSOH. **Text Only Box: 4000683**

STACY 28yr old gorgeous brunette with buxom figure, intelligent and sensual, WLTM genuine male to get to know for fun dates and more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 377509**

KATRIANA, professional sincere lady, 48yrs, loves to have a good time. Very sensual and loves men of all ages. Please text me for a chat. **Text Only Box 4148978**

SOPHIA young 40yrs, married but bored, seeks discreet adult fun, any area, all calls answered. **Tel: 0906 515 3019 Box: 413399**

DONNA, vivacious slim brunette, 48, lives for today, fit and fun loving, seeks active, easygoing male for companionship. ACA. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 423477**

EMILY, mature well educated lady, blonde and smart and broadminded seeks gent any age for no strings fun. ACA. **Tel: 0906 515 3023 Box 421375**

LYN, 51, tall curvy blue eyed brunette loves countryside, motor sports and cuddles, seeks tactile romantic male for some fun. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 423443**

LORRAINE, attractive solvent brunette, 34yrs, own house/car wltm gent any age, looks unimportant but must have GSOH. ACA. **Tel: 0906 515 3031 Box 422415**

JEAN, 56, shy brunette with lots of love to give to the right man seeks mature male to share relaxed relationship with. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 423305**

SARAH 39, blonde hair, blue/green eyes, fun loving and romantic looking for new possibilities with well built, dark haired tactile male. Age unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 423093**

JESSICA, sporty blonde lady 32yrs, recently divorced so seeking some uncomplicated fun with older gent. Must have gsoh. **Text Only Box: 4039004**

BLACK, attractive cultured lady seeks white gentleman, age 40-60 for friendship first perhaps LTR later. **Text only Mailbox: 5511784**

CAROL 37 attractive slim blonde, curves in all the right places, nice personality, good company, looking for caring man for fun times. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420757**

CATHY attractive 35yr singleton, varied interests, looking for trustworthy male for companionship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 423231**

KATHERINE, 45, romantic, slim, feminine, loves to live life to the full, seeks adventurous outgoing male to appreciate and share intimate times. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 423261**

LORNA 34, sensual, shapely brunette WLTM tall friendly guy for romantic no strings fun. Ask no questions, I'll tell no lies! **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 423241**

BROWN eyed brummie female 65 smoker likes music, cinema, theatre, meals out, WLTM male 66 - 73 for LTR. **Text only Mailbox: 5501142**

BROWN eyed brummie female, 65, smoker, likes music, cinema, meals out, WLTM male, 66 -73, for LTR. **Text only Mailbox: 4400186**

LOVELY Oriental lady in Carmarthenshire seeks older man 70+ to share company and special times and to be a partner. **Text only Mailbox: 5506384**

JANE, very attractive blonde, own house in lovely village, car etc, loves travel to sunny places, entertaining, exercise WLTM male with similar interests. **Text only Mailbox: 5430085**

ATTRACTIVE energetic mature lady, looking for well-travelled, solvent companion for holidays, dining out and days away. **Text only Mailbox: 5502846**

RETIRED happy, caring, attractive female, likes gardening, travel, animals, comedy, seeks tall, funny, kind chap, Shropshire. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 411459**

LADY, 48, 5ft2, hazel eyes, brown hair, likes bowling, meals out, nights in, ice skating, looking for a toy boy, 30-42, who is fun and enjoys life to have a good time with. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422679**

Customer support
Call **0207 720 7130** Monday - Friday 10am - 4pm
or email us at **support@jmediauk.co.uk**

CAROL, 44, brunette with plenty of spare time on her hands seeks special mature male for fun times together. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 423057**

SINGLE tall blonde, 30yrs, bored of life's mundane routines looking for some discreet fun with likeminded man, any age/looks. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 423089**

MATURE female 63, large breasted, seeks assertive younger man 30-50 for adult fun. Must be discreet. **Text only Mailbox: 5495834**

REMEMBER: Calls cost £1.55 per minute plus your phone company's access charge. Texts cost £1.50 per message received.

JOANNA, 49 years old, looking to meet a man for friendship 50/60 years old. **Text only Mailbox: 5428223**

ALISON 28, feminine, outgoing, adventurous brunette who knows what she wants, seeks fit, fun loving man to sweep her off her feet. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 423061**

EILEEN 49, lovely brunette, adventurous and eager to please seeks intelligent male to share the fun side of life together. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 423007**

SABINA, 35, outgoing attractive brunette, fit and carefree just looking for fun times without complications, maybe more later. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 423003**

WIDOW, 5ft2, looking for a gentleman for friendship, days out, meals out and for friendship and companionship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422657**

YOUNG, big boobed, single mum. Looking for a fun guy, but wants to be spoiled. Relationship ideally but happy with no strings fun. **Text only Mailbox: 5496828**

ATTRACTIVE slim 54yr old female looking for caring genuine male 50-58 yrs to wine and dine with, share nice times with, please get in touch. **Text only Mailbox: 5395695**

MANDY 44, fun flirty blonde, petite size 6-8, gorgeous green eyes seeks special male for friendship and uncomplicated love. Age unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422863**

FEMALE, 33, blue eyes, long blonde hair, pretty, slim, looking for Asian man to have some discreet no strings fun with. **Text only Mailbox: 5495296**

GILL 61, slim dark eyed blonde seeks tall carefree male who is looking for someone special for fun times with no complications. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422843**

TINA, 41, WLTM Muslim men, Indian Pakistani Kurdish or Turkish for daytime or evening fun, can accommodate, can travel, very discreet. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422927**

JACKIE, 49, dark hair, green eyes, cuddly build, likes going out, gym, reading, looking for an honest gentleman for friendship/possible relationship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422257**

CILLA, 40, tall blue eyed size 12 brunette, loves horses, country/beach walks, cosy nights infront of fire, good wine/food, WLTM similar male who appreciates my interests. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422009**

SINGLE 40s, seeks Indian Pakistani Kurdish males, for no strings, day or evening fun, I am discreet, I can travel and I can accommodate. Midlands/Stoke on Trent. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422921**

ANNE, 40, pretty professional fun female with great curves, looking for fun and romance with down to earth male looking for similar. Any age/status. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422711**

FEMALE 38, large breasted, seeks Indian/Pakistani/Kurdish male for daytime fun. Can Travel/accom. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417233**

ALISON, lonely shy blue eyed blonde, 46, just wanting to be loved, looking for caring man to pamper in return for mutual TLC. ACA. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422859**

BARBARA, 44, friendly and outgoing but lonely, seeking similar lonely male to pamper, enjoy fun times and affection with. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422839**

MAUREEN, 38, pretty brunette, new to the area and very lonely, looking to meet someone understanding for convenient friendship, 30-60yrs. Can travel. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422815**

TINA, 43, young looking attractive single female looking for love, with similar lonely heart resorting to advertising in the hope of finding love. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 421613**

JACKIE 40, slim brunette, with sultry green eyes seeks tall guy with nice eyes who understands women, for some really good times. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422819**

JEAN, 75, black hair, hazel eyes, medium build, likes dancing, singing, gardening, bingo, meals out, days out, Scotland, WLTM a gentleman any age for company and friendship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422651**

SARA 34yr old single mum looking for a genuine male to make me laugh again and help put the spark back into my life. Looks unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422541**

SARAH, brown hair, dark eyes, likes crafts, cooking, cinema, socialising, looking for a male friend, 30-35, possibly leading to relationship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422589**

JEAN, 75, lives in West Midlands, likes gardening, bingo, dancing, travelling, generally nice things, WLTM local gentleman for company and friendship, hoping to hear from you. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422571**

JOANNE, 48, curvy black female, likes cooking, cinema, socialising, seeking friendship leading to LTR, must be honest, romantic, caring and loyal and have a GSOH. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422633**

JO 45, hardworking nurse with crazy sense of humour, looking for fun male with plenty of ideas to spice up her spare time. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422545**

50YRS, old attractive lady. Sheila, caring honest, seeks discreet gent. ACA. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422469**

RITA 41, exotic olive skinned female, friendly, chatty, loves to entertain, seeks loving honest male to pamper and make happy. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422723**

PETRIANA, 44, very attractive, voluptuous blonde, with old-fashioned values, seeks romantic down to earth male for a special relationship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422717**

PASSIONATE, broadminded curvy lady 67 seeks very assertive discreet younger male 25-45 for no strings fun, looks unimportant. **Text only Mailbox: 5480845**

JULIE, petite, slim, attractive blonde young looking early 40's, enjoys wining, dining, theatre seeking good looking romantic male, 45-55, for mutual spoiling. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422709**

PAT, petite blonde lady, GSOH, young looking for her age, seeks genuine gent any age with GSOH. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422393**

RITA, , seeks a genuine male for friendship, days out, shes very friendly, genuine and social, give her a call ACA. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422403**

SARA 34yr old single mum looking for a genuine male to make me laugh again and help put the spark back into my life. Looks unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422541**

BIRMINGHAM female 65, smoker, likes music, cinema, theatre, meals out, WLTM male 66 - 73 for LTR. **Text only Mailbox: 5474599**

70 years young attractive caring genuine lady, seeks honest reliable man for friendship days out and poss LTR. Bristol/Bath area. **Text only Mailbox: 4648891**

LORNA 28, sensual blue-eyed blonde with a beautiful smile, seeking intelligent guy in good shape for new experiences and fun loving. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422491**

MICHELLE, 37, pretty, very fit, well travelled seeks active, broadminded male to share new experiences and adventures with. ACA. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422459**

Single Men

REMEMBER: Calls cost £1.55 per minute plus your phone company's access charge. Texts cost £1.50 per message received.

MATURE, passionate male, 30s WLTM a lady, grab the chance while I am single! **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 423195**

JOE, semi retired, young looking and acting, slim and fit, 5ft8, considered good company, looking for daytime meets. Let's see if we click. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422803**

GUY, 47, 5ft7, dark hair, blue eyes, loves music, DVDs, nights in and out, seeks female, 30-42, for friendship and LTR, in the Leamington Spa/Rugby area. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 423559**

JIMBO, friendly fun loving chap, 42yrs, own building company. Divorced, no kids. Wants a kind caring lady to spoil, any age, single mums welcome. **Text Only Box: 4036422**

TONY, 58, tall, dark hair, seeks mature female, 65+, for hassle free liaisons, looks not important. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 423389**

MALE 59, N/S, fit, slim, seeks attractive slim female for discreet no strings friendship and fun. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 413655**

RETIRED widower, 5'7", slim salt/pepper hair, quite active, interests vary, loyal, trustworthy, reliable, seeks mature lady for friendship. **Text only Mailbox: 4906469**

SINGLE 38 year old male, fun loving, tall, blue eyes, looking for caring 30 to 50 year old female, passionate and fun loving. **Text only Mailbox: 5516385**

FIT mechanic, looking for female any age for friends with benefits arrangement. **Text only Mailbox: 4605333**

MALE 45, easy going, looking for a lady for adult fun. Cardiff area. **Text only Mailbox: 5515485**

KEN, 53, married and looking for no strings, adult fun. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 423379**

ANDY, from West Brom, slim, very young looking 49, looking for a special lady to spend fun times together and loving relationship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 421747**

MALE, young looking 49, 5ft5, slim build, from West Bromwich, likes films, socialsing, looking for a fun lady who likes to laugh, for good times/possible LTR. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 421783**

ROBERT, slim, intelligent, N/S, 50's, seeks attractive, younger female for uncomplicated friendship and fun. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 312443**

TALL attractive male, 56, looking to meet a mature woman, size 18 plus, any age, for close fun times. **Text only Mailbox: 5410860**

WIDOWER, 73, near Coventry, healthy and very active, seeks female, 58-68, for companionship, days out, theatre, and regular short trips to property in Marbaia. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 423339**

MALE, 41, shaved hair, dark brown eyes, athletic build, open minded, up for NSA fun with a female. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 423349**

REMEMBER: Calls cost £1.55 per minute plus your phone company's access charge. Texts cost £1.50 per message received.

MATURE male seeking fun times, Coventry area. **Text only Mailbox: 4830151**

PROFESSIONAL male, 56, young looking, slim, fit, N/S, seeks younger female for fun and friendship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 310626**

ROBERT 50's, N/S, slim, easygoing, GSOH, seeks attractive female for discreet friendship and fun. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 358600**

MEDIUM build male, single, enjoys days out, country pubs and keep fit, looking for a soul mate. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 423189**

ADVENTUROUS 36-year-old male, dark hair, slim, likes music, cycling and photography, seeks female for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417235**

ATTRACTIVE male, 58, N/S, fit, missing pleasant female company, seeks open-minded, slim, attractive female for discreet liaisons. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 384406**

DAVE, 54, 5ft10, medium build, easy going, happy, looking for an attractive, loving and caring female, 45-65, for friendship and relationship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 423073**

MIKE 49, slim, young looks, seeks female, 35-50 for friendship and going out. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 356651**

MALE 57, tall, seeks mature female, 50-75, for close adult fun, any size or status. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422409**

EDDIE, young looking 54, painter and decorator by trade, likes going out and having a good time, sport and all kinds of music, looking for a LTR with a caring, honest, trustworthy person, as I am. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 423113**

SHAUN, short black hair, mixed race, 5ft7, average build, looking for a lady, looks not important but a great personality is a must! Hanley area. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 423107**

47 year old guy, seeks female, 30-42, in the Leamington Spa/Rugby area, for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 423105**

IRISH widower, 65, 5ft9, GSOH, WLTM a lady for friendship in the North Birmingham area. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 423071**

IRISH male, 60s, 5ft9, independent, n/s, wishes to meet a lady in the Birmingham area. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420859**

MARK, genuine male, 52, considered attractive, home owner, well travelled, likes keeping fit, looking for a lady for my soul mate, first time advertiser. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422935**

ANDY, single, 53, looking for a mature, sexy lady, age/looks unimportant, for fun and adventure. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422893**

GENT 48, youthful outlook, likes countryside, keep fit, karaoke, seeks soul mate for fun times. N Shropshire. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 408411**

TALL male 56, seeks close adult fun with open-minded woman, 40 to 75, any status or size. **Text only Mailbox: 5410860**

52 yr old male, average build, fit. lonely, seeks a lady for fun times, LTR, soul mate, or discreet dates, can travel. **Text only Mailbox: 5418572**

41YR old male WLTM local lady for no strings fun and meets. Honest, kind, gentlemanly, can't accommodate. Coventry. **Text only Mailbox: 5498485**

CARING male, 45, kind, loving, animal lover, seeks female with similar qualities. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 394149**

MALE 46, brown hair/eyes, average looks/build, loving, caring, understanding, seeks female to share good times with. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410845**

SHAUN, 49, brown hair, brown eyes, average looks, 16 and a half stone, good sense of humour, animal lover with loads of love and security to give to the right person. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418783**

TALL, attractive male, 62, GSOH, enjoys the normal things in life, going out to staying in, holidays etc, seeks lovely active petite/slimmish lady, 62-72, for an nice relationship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422931**

MALE, 49, 5ft10, brown hair, brown eyes, average looks, GSOH, OHAC, honest, romantic, animal lover, likes country pubs, walks along the canal and countryside, looking for somebody who is down to earth and fun loving. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 396440**

STAFFORDSHIRE man, 40, loves sport, music, dancing, politics, looking for friendship, possibly relationship, any age/race/looks unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422955**

Gay Singles

REMEMBER: Calls cost £1.55 per minute plus your phone company's access charge. Texts cost £1.50 per message received.

BI male 59 seeks males 40 to 65 for friendship near Tamworth. **Text only Mailbox: 4355756**

DAVID, gay/bi curious first time advertiser, 28yrs, married but unsure. **Text Only Box: 4112883**

YOUNG male, 25, educated, likes arts, dogs, travel, classic cars, comedy, seeks similar older male for LTR. London/Shropshire anywhere. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 412463**

MATURE male WLTM similar mature sultray assertive male, for friendship in the Derbyshire/Staffordshire area. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422191**

MALE, 75, seeking a male 70+, for discreet meetings, can accommodate, ACA. Coventry. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 423413**

MALE, 72, seeks bi-curious or gay male, 60 plus, can accommodate ACA. Coventry area. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 419767**

GAY feminine female, blue eyes, GSOH, WLTM caring fem female for friendship or LTR. No children. **Text only Mailbox: 5448522**

Just Friends

REMEMBER: Calls cost £1.55 per minute plus your phone company's access charge. Texts cost £1.50 per message received.

PAT 67, attractive, likes reading, holidays, seeking female, 65-72 for friendship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 405985**

CALL CHARGES*: DATING 18+ and have the bill payer's permission. 0844 calls cost 7 pence per min, 090 calls cost £1.55 per min, plus your phone company's access charge. Calls are recorded and may appear on your bill. TEXT*: Text alerts are charged at £1.50 per week. To unsubscribe to text alerts, text DATING STOP to 63333. To cancel free match alerts, text STOP to 07781474042. For full T&Cs go to www.localdates-terms.co.uk/. REPLY BY TEXT*: 80098/89990 costs £1.50 per SMS received (max 150 characters). Guaranteed up to 4 messages for each message you send, Service only available where phone icon shown. Messages are moderated. Minimum 7 messages must be sent before contact details can be exchanged. This service is not computer generated. All messages are responded to by real service users. No meetings can be guaranteed. If arranging a meeting be sure to choose a public space and do not give personal details to people you have not met. To STOP text stop to 80098/89990. Service provided by No Goats Ltd. Help: 0207 720 7130. ALL SERVICES*: By texting any shortcode you consent to the owner of that shortcode sending you the occasional marketing message. To opt out of receiving these send NO INFO to 80098. DATA PROTECTION: Service provided by JMedia UK Ltd, SW4 7BX, 0207 720 7130. We will collect the details you provide and may send you details of other services and events operated by us. We may pass your details onto this newspaper for marketing or PhonePayPlus for regulatory purposes. Advertisers may come from our national database and from our pdc app. w/c 22/08/16

Sandwell Chronicle Thursday, August 25, 2016

DS 3 wins hands down

By Sharon Walters

I wouldn't have to toss a coin in the air to decide between the DS 3 and its main rival the MINI. There's simply no hesitation for me. DS wins hands down. Whether in

It's curvy, seductive and very come hither. Unlike the pumped up MINI which while it's a great car doesn't set my heart aflutter. But then I am a Francophile and this car is so very, very chic and Gallic.

And don't mistake my 'looks matter' impression, the DS 3 offers the best package for my needs.

It has good ride and handling, low runnings costs and is very well put together inside. There's also plenty of kit as standard across the trims plus a range of economical and entertaining engines.

That standard spec includes alloy wheels, air-conditioning, an anti-theft alarm and a new 7-inch colour touchscreen.

Step up from the entry level Chic to Elegance and you also get 'Blade' 16-inch alloy wheels and LED front fog lights and inside, sports seats with stylish new 'Dinamica' cloth trim and automatic air-conditioning. There is also the latest-generation functionality includes rear parking sensors and the DS Connect Box emergency and assistance system. At the top Prestige adds eMyWay satellite navigation and front parking sensors, as well as Alcantara® upholstery, 17-inch alloy wheels and a lot more.

Ultra Prestige, Performance and Performance Black models form an Exclusive Collection.

Impressed

I tried out the Prestige THP 165 S&S 6-speed manual and while not the most friendly in terms of emissions as regards road fund licence, it impressed me more than the DS 5 I drove earlier in the summer.

My journey into work includes some lovely winding country roads and the DS 3 was a joy to travel in, especially at my usual commute time of around 6.30am.

It loved the corners and thanks to to its fairly stiff suspension, always felt well positioned and secure on the road. And it also enjoyed dual carriageway and motorway cruising - giving the feeling of being in a much larger car.

One of the biggest contributers to the travel comfort lies with the large supportive seats. Get out after a couple of hundred miles and there was no unwinding of the spine!

The 1.6 litre THP 165 almost gives you a hot-hatch performance - it will get from 0-62 mph in 7.5 seconds and should you get on a race track will get up to 135 mph.

Inside the car is very boutique French.

It has good ride and handling, low running costs and is very well put together inside

There's nice detailing on the dashboard and the dials are pretty with a 'floating' hood sitting above them.

And the car is right up to date with with a new touchscreen featuring Apple CarPlay and Android Auto tech.Plus an excellent hi-fi on top grade models which has a sub-woofer and central surround sound speaker.

Above all DS 3 is about individuality and on top of the standard trims there's a huge array of individual personalisation options or extra spec packs – enabling you to make the car have your very own personality.

And looking to the future and what you'll get when you sell, it's a stylish and popular model that sells well both new and used. That means it is acar in demand, which results in depreciation being reduced.

All models get remote stereo controls, and Bluetooth, USB socket and DAB features on all but the basic Chic.

And there you have why this car is my favourite in the sector.

Capability of an SUV but with GT spirit

By James Parker

The Peugeot 3008 SUV GT is a truly modern expression of driving pleasure, aimed at individuals who are looking for a new driving experience.

The GT crowns the brand's SUV range and is exclusively equipped with the 2.0-litre BlueHDi 180 S&S (Stop&Start) EAT6 (Efficient Automatic Transmission with 6-speed transmission) providing a high level of performance.

To complement the GT, a 'GT Line' trim-level is offered on alternative engine versions, with a 'sporty' and 'top-of-the-range' appearance. The 3008 SUV, GT Line and GT versions, are a key part of the brand's move up-market and will be available to order from November 2016, with UK deliveries commencing from January 2017.

Both GT Line and GT trim levels can be specified with the distinctive 'Coupe Franche' paint option – a characteristic Peugeot visual signature.

It has a well-equipped and progressive two-model UK range. Consistent with the brand's strategy of moving up-market, it now has:

- Two mainstream trim-levels with high standard specification in Active and Allure models
- 'GT Line' – the best of all worlds, with outstanding engine efficiency and sports styling
- 'GT' – the ultimate sports Peugeot 3008 SUV with great all-round capabilities

The GT model is positioned as the top-of-the-range 3008 SUV model, with its exclusive and resolutely dynamic proposition, while at the same time being perfectly usable on a day-to-day basis. Aimed at driving enthusiasts craving sophistication, the Peugeot 3008 SUV GT offers to combine all the qualities of the range's new SUV with an assertive style, an impressive interior that includes the innovative new Peugeot i-Cockpit®, with configurable 12.3" digital instrument panel.

As part of the brand's move upmarket, the Peugeot range continues to comprise of well specified vehicles. The new sports variants of the 3008 SUV is no exception with GT Line versions including numerous standard features and safety equipment items:

- A choice of BlueHDi diesel, multi award-winning PureTech and e-THP petrol engines
- Full LED headlamps including sequential scrolling LED front indicators
- Smartphone charging plate
- 3D satellite navigation including three year subscription to TomTom® Live updates
- Safety Plus Pack comprises the 'Active Blind Spot Detection' (ABSD), 'Lane Keeping Assistance' (LKA), advanced 'Driver Attention Alert' system (DAA3) and Peugeot 'Smartbeam Assistance'.

In addition to GT Line models, the GT version of the 3008 SUV features the following equipment as standard to make every journey a delightful experience:

- A highly-efficient engine: the 2.0-litre BlueHDi 180 S&S, mated to the EAT6 (Efficient Automatic Transmission six-speed) gearbox – the most powerful version in the range, providing a more intense driving experience
- A more sporty appearance, with integrated wheel arch protective extensions combined with 19" 'Boston' matt Haria two-tone finish diamond-cut alloy wheels
- Sumptuous seating, trimmed in full grain Nappa Mistral leather with Aikinite copper double-stitch trim detail, driver seat multipoint massage function, electric adjustment and memory
- Panoramic opening glass roof with electric interior blind and blue ambient lighting
- ACC Stop (Adaptive Cruise Control with Stop function)
- Smart electric tailgate (includes foot movement operation) with Peugeot Open and Go system or 'GT' badging on the tailgate, double chrome exhaust pipes are located either side of the bumper. These stylistic elements are perfectly integrated, giving an air of chic and elegant sportiness.

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Fuel consumption in MPG (l/100km) for Hyundai range: Urban 25.2 (11.2) - 78.5 (3.6), Extra Urban 38.7 (7.3) - 80.7 (3.5), Combined 32.1 (8.8) - 76.3 (3.7), CO2 Emissions 231 - 84 g/km. Fuel consumption: figures shown are based on official EU test figures. These are to be used as a guide for comparative purposes and may not reflect all driving results.

On the road (OTR) prices shown include customer saving discounts where applicable, VAT where applicable, delivery, vehicle first registration fee, number plates and 12 months' Road Fund Licence. All offers, finance and savings are subject to availability and are only available to private retail customers on new cars purchased and registered in the UK, between 1st July and 30th September 2016, inclusive. 5 Year Warranty terms and exclusions apply. Please see www.hyundai.co.uk or ask us. W. Brindley (Garages) Limited trading as W. Brindley (Garages) Limited are a credit broker (not a lender) for the purposes of this financial promotion and can introduce you to a limited number of carefully selected finance providers and may receive a commission from them for the introduction.

New Alfa Romeo Giulia in UK soon

By James Parker

Head joins the heart today as Alfa Romeo announces the UK pricing and specification for the alll-new Alfa Romeo Giulia range, with prices starting from £29,180 on-the-road.

Featuring all new rear-wheel drive architecture, perfect weight distribution, best in class power-to-weight ratios, and innovative engine and driver technologies, the new Giulia is every inch a true Alfa Romeo. In terms of style, the car stands out for its distinctive Italian design, which is expressed through an impeccable sense of proportions, based on the technical architecture, as well as the sophisticated simplicity and quality surfaces used both inside and out.

In the UK, the Giulia model range features five trim levels – The Giulia, Super, Tecnica, Speciale and the range topping Quadrifoglio – and is available in 13 different exterior colour options. Alfa Romeo Giulia drivers can also choose between four engine variants (two petrol and two diesel), which are all paired to a new eight-speed automatic transmission as standard.

The entry trim level 'Giulia' includes comprehensive standard specification. It includes new efficient active safety systems, including Forward Collision Warning with Autonomous Emergency Brake with pedestrian recognition, Integrated Brake System, and Lane Departure Warning – all of which have contributed to the new Alfa Romeo Giulia being awarded a prestigious Five Star Euro NCAP rating.

Focuses

Rounding out the entry level trim are a host of styling and functional features. Exterior features include 16-inch alloy wheels, LED rear lights, chrome exhaust and aluminium brake calipers.

As with all Alfa Romeos, the interior of the car focuses on driving satisfaction with dual-zone climate control, Alfa™ D.N.A. rotary driving mode selector, 3.5" TFT colour cluster instrument panel, UConnect™ 6.5" display infotainment system with DAB plus MP3 and Bluetooth connectivity, 8-speaker audio system,rear parking sensors and cruise control.

The full package of standard equipment on the Alfa Romeo Giulia trim level is supplemented on the Super version with exclusive interior and exterior features. Exterior wise, Super trim level adds 17-inch alloy wheels and a dual chrome exhaust tip.

Inside, Alfa Romeo Giulia Super features an 8.8-inch 3D navigation with 7-inch TFT display, as well as leather and cloth seat trims in three colour options. The engine range comprises the 200hp 2.0-litre turbo petrol, 150hp 2.2 JTDM-2 and 180hp 2.2 JTDM-2 Prices for the Super range start at £30,750.

The Tecnica adds useful and stylish features for the business user, including power seats, climate pack and privacy glass. It also adds a driver assistance pack featuring front and rear parking sensors and rear view camera. Prices for the Alfa Romeo Giulia Tecnica start at £30,995.

Upgrade

Building on the Super trim level, drivers wanting an even sportier presence on the road can upgrade to the Speciale trim level.

From the exterior this sporty trim level features 18-inch 'Sport' alloys, 25W bi-Xenon headlamps, sports front and rear bumpers, a sports diffuser, dual chrome exhaust and red brake callipers.

Inside the Speciale features aluminium metal sport pedals and footrest, heated and powered front seats, heated steering wheel and leather sports seats. Prices for the Speciale start at £34,150.

Top-of-the-range Quadrifoglio trim adds functional and styling contents to the standard specification. These include leather and Alcantara upholstered sports seats, sports steering wheel with red ignition button, carbon fibre inserts for the interior and aerodynamic exterior spoilers, comfort and safety features that also includeBlind Spot Monitoring technology and rear camera as well as 35W Xenon headlights with AFS technology.

In addition, it features technical gear designed specifically to maximise dynamic performance: the AlfaTM Active Aero Splitter system, the dedicated braking system, the AlfaTM D.N.A. Pro selector with Race mode that communicates with the AlfaTM Chassis Domain Control (CDC) system, and AlfaTM Torque Vectoring.

Powered by a new 510hp, 600Nm Bi-Turbo V6 petrol engine, with an eight-speed paddle shift automatic transmission as standard. Pricing for the Quadrifoglio super saloon start at £59,000.

The new Giulia range will go on sale in the UK later this year.

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Steve Brown and his Tamaki College team with visiting All Blacks including coach Osaiski Kupu and players Brodie Retallick and Julian Savea

Rugby coach Steve Brown

Coach Brown kicks off new life with future All Blacks

HE is responsible for introducing rugby to hundreds of children from the West Midlands.

Now Cannock's Steven Brown believes he is coaching youngsters who will one day star for the imperious All Blacks after starting a new life in New Zealand.

Rugby fanatic Brown – together with his wife of 33-years Julie – are well-known locally for the role they played in establishing the junior game in Cannock.

Back in 1983 Brown launched an under-14s side at Cannock RFU in a bid to show local youngsters they weren't just restricted to playing football.

In the years that followed, under-12s, under-10s and an under-19 colts team were quickly established with Brown then moving on to coach the Cannock first team.

A similar stint at Worcester Warriors followed with the coach helping train youngsters aged from eight to 13.

Culture

In 2012, having also built up a successful IT business in his professional life, Brown decided to move to the other side of the world to support Julie's dream of living in a different culture. But his love for junior rugby was never going to diminish with the coach now taking the reigns of junior teams at Tamaki College in Auckland.

In a country where rugby is the national support, Brown has continued to thrive and was recently visited by, and held a training session with, six All Blacks after his Tamaki College under-14s side won a competition to find the best newly-founded young team in New Zealand.

And the coach admits meeting Malakai Fekitoa, Owen Franks, Brodie Retallick, Julian Savea, Codie Taylor and Ofa Tu'ungafasi was an experience he and his pupils will never forget.

SPORTING FEATURE

By Joseph Masi

"Having coached rugby around the world this will remain as one of my greatest moments."

"Meeting the All Blacks was, of course, a great moment for me but I was just so proud of the boys because they were a credit to their families and to Tamaki College," Brown said. "The All Blacks gave us some great tips and provided a day that these youngsters and myself will never forget.

"Having coached rugby around the world this will remain as one of my greatest moments.

"Tamaki College is not known for being a rugby school, but it currently has an excellent first XV, under-15s and now an under-14s team. I know that I am coaching future All Blacks."

Brown's love for rugby began as a youngster when he watched his brother Bill star for the likes of Lichfield, Staffordshire and London Irish.

A tough tackling prop, he himself played for Lichfield as well as Staffordshire, Stafford and Walsall. But it was after hanging up his boots that he and his wife began looking to encourage more youngsters to take up the sport. To start the Cannock RUFC junior teams I had to prove to the local youngsters from the wider Cannock area that there was another sport other than football," he said.

"Cannock RUFC Juniors with an under-14 team then won the Staffordshire Championship in their first season.

"The following season we started the under-12s and the following season the under-10s.

"The mini junior section was established and to continue our feeder policy we organised a Chase Schools Cup. We then went on to take over the under-19s colts for Cannock.

"Cannock junior teams then went on to beat the best Midlands teams such as Moseley, Walsall, Bromsgrove, Stafford and Lichfield."

Fortunate

After achieving so much success in junior rugby, Brown revealed the pair opted to move the other side of the world to fulfil Julie's dream of living in New Zealand.

"We were fortunate that I had done everything I had wanted to do in business," he said.

"Julie had always wanted to live in New Zealand and she had supported me throughout life and it was my turn to support her."

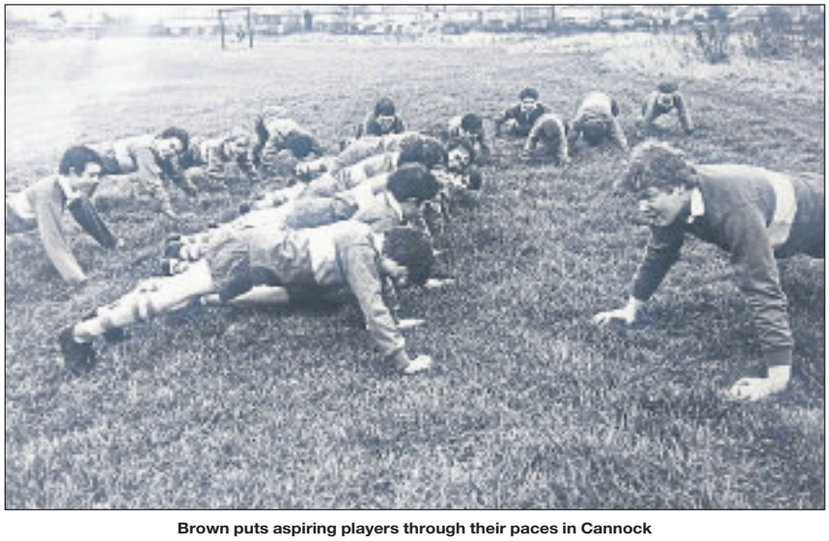
Now with expert knowledge of rugby on both sides of the hemisphere, Brown believes that mix is helping the pupils he is currently teaching.

"I have learned so much from being in New Zealand.

"The boys here are so dedicated and fit and I have still not worn any of them down in training.

"You tell them to jump and they say how high. If they believe in you they will run through fire."

Brown was instrumental in founding youth rugby in Cannock



Brown puts aspiring players through their paces in Cannock

Sport

Rugby coach converts to new life with future All Blacks prospects
Page 51

Brummies' blistering form goes on

BIRMINGHAM continued their sensational run of form with a comprehensive 58-32 home win over Buxton.

The Surestop Brummies pulled 15 points clear at the top of the National League thanks to an eleventh successive team victory.

Team manager Graham Drury again highlighted his side's togetherness and character following the late withdrawal of star reserve Jack Smith.

"Jack had a fall against Cradley on Monday and tweaked his back," Drury explained. "With no disrespect to Buxton at all, if it would have been against a more in-form team who were performing better in the league then Jack would have given it a go."

Tom Bacon and Danyon Hume both showed plenty of speed as they dropped just one point apiece to a Buxton rider on another super night for the middle order duo.

Teenage sensation Jack Parkinson-Blackburn was cruelly denied his first ever paid maximum in heat 15 despite his best efforts to find a way past Buxton guest Danny Halsey. The 15-year-old stepped up to the plate in fine style in the absence of his fellow reserve Smith and was awarded the Ductair Electrics Ltd Rider of the Night.

Skipper Tom Perry recovered from a spill in his opening ride to reach double figures while Darryl Ritchings improved as the night went on and picked up two paid wins in the process.

While stand-in reserve Stephen Whitehouse failed to trouble the scorers, it was a night he'll always remember as he picked up some vital experience on his first full National League debut.

BIRMINGHAM 58: Tom Bacon 16+1, Danyon Hume 13+1, Jack Parkinson-Blackburn 12+1, Tom Perry 10+1, Darryl Ritchings 7+3, Stephen Whitehouse 0, Zach Wajtknecht R/R.
BUXTON 32: Dan Halsey 13, Lee Dicken 6, David Wallinger 4+2, Lee Geary 4, Ryan Blacklock 3, Ryan Burton 2+1, David Speight R/R.

Clubs vying to be best with national pairs at weekend

THE draw has been made for the National League Pairs to be held at King's Lynn on Saturday, starting at 7pm.

A total of 10 clubs will be in action in the popular event, which features the top riders in the third tier of British racing.

Group A features two of the favourites, Cradley and Eastbourne, along with host club King's Lynn plus Mildenhall and Isle of Wight.

Group B includes National League top two Birmingham and Kent, recent National League Fours winners Rye House plus Belle Vue and Buxton.

Each group will feature 10 heats, with the top two teams reaching the semi-finals.

The winner of each semi-final will battle for the top prize whilst the two losing semi-finalists will take part in the consolation final.

Admission has been priced at £15 for adults and £4 for juniors with a programme available for £2.50.

NATIONAL LEAGUE PAIRS CHAMPIONSHIP:
GROUP A: Cradley, Eastbourne, King's Lynn, Mildenhall, Isle of Wight.
GROUP B: Birmingham, Kent, Rye House, Belle Vue, Buxton.

Shakey 'honoured' to get England role

Craig Shakespeare

CRAIG SHAKESPEARE says being appointed England first-team coach 'caps off a brilliant year'.

The former Albion and Walsall midfielder, who lives in Lichfield, helped guide Leicester City to their historical Premier League title last season as assistant manager.

Providing a crucial bridge between the Nigel Pearson and Claudio Ranieri eras, he's now been rewarded with a call-up to the national team by the Football Association and Dudley-born England manager Sam Allardyce. "This is a huge honour for me," said Shakespeare, who will continue to work at Leicester as an assistant manager as well.

"Anyone involved in football knows that representing your country is something special and this caps off a brilliant year. Leicester have been really good to me and I am sure the international experience I get from being alongside Sam and Sammy (Lee) will add to my work at the club.

"We will have an elite group of players and a great facility in St George's Park." Shakespeare made nearly 350 appearances for the Saddlers in the 1980s and more than 100 for the Baggies in the early 90s. When he finished playing professional football he rejoined Albion as a community support officer.

Allardyce said: "Craig will be a tremendous asset to England, and I am grateful to Leicester for their help in making this happen. Sammy and I know him well and he will bring his own insight to what we are trying to do with the squad."

NEW ERA, SAME OLD PROBLEMS

IT was supposed to be the dawning of a new era, but in typical Albion fashion there was absolutely no fanfare.

Incoming Chinese owner Guochuan Lai wasn't even presented to the fans before the game, which was odd considering he's agreed to buy 88 per cent of the club. Perhaps he's shy.

But at least he was at the ground. On Saturday there were 1,000 other absentees who screamed their message louder than any others.

The attendance for the first home game of the season, a Saturday 3pm kick-off no less, after the club has been taken over by new investors, was just 23,654.

That's nearly 1,000 fewer than last season's average of 24,631, and Everton sold out the away end.

The club has not been willing to reveal how many season tickets have been sold this summer, and now we know why.

The empty blue seats in the bottom half of the Brummie Road End and parts of the East Stand will not have gone unnoticed by the new owner at his first game, even if he was sidetracked by an early Albion goal. There's no denying it now, supporters are turning away from Tony Pulis.

They might return of course, should the club buy some new players and the style of play improve. But for now, it's a worrying trend that only has one outcome.

In the post-match interviews Pulis trotted out the same old excuse about money, and it's true, the financial disparity was there for all to see. In the first half Ronald Koeman brought on Romelu Lukaku, a £28million striker who's been linked with a £75m move back to Chelsea.

Then he threw on Yannick Bolasie, a £25m winger, and Ashley Williams, a £12m defender.

Pulis brought on a 17-year-old, a £1.5m winger, and a £3m striker who turns 35 this season.

There's no question Albion's squad is weaker than Everton's.

Whoever you personally blame for that – be it Jeremy Peace, Tony Pulis, Nick Hammond, or a mixture of all three – there's no escaping that fact. In some ways, that makes this performance quite impressive. Despite having plenty of possession, Everton just edged Albion out of the contest. Had James McClean kept his head in front of goal in injury time, or Maarten Stekelenburg not stretched his boot out far enough to reach Darren Fletcher's shot, then we could be talking about an unbeaten start for Pulis.

But as it turned out, Everton managed to regroup after the early blow from Gareth McAuley, compose themselves, and do just about enough to win the game.

Koeman deserves plenty of credit of course, for recognising the need for a target man and bringing Romelu Lukaku on as early as the 37th minute.

Their first goal was a sublime one-touch team effort, rounded off by the talented Kevin Mirallas.

Their second was lucky, but the best player on the pitch found himself in the right place at the right time and so Gareth Barry's face ended up winning the match.

Albion's deficiencies in the final third were laid bare, and Jonas Olsson proved again that he's not consistent enough to be given a full-time starting place. Matt Phillips had a disappointing home debut but there were positives, particularly from Saido Berahino, who continues to work his socks off to gain some form of redemption at the club that made him.

Midfield tussle or Olympic wrestling? Claudio Yacob gets to grips with Everton's Ross Barkley

Tividale fail to find the Badgers' net

Brocton 1 Tividale 0

TIVIDALE met with a determined Brocton, who kept them at bay despite a prolonged session of pressure in the second half. The Badgers started off brightly, and in the eighth minute a Sean Kinsella corner was met with a powerful header and goal by Dan Lomas.

It could have been even better on 21 minutes when Kinsella released the run of Dominic Dell. Dell did everything but score as he held off the close attentions of a defender and passed the onrushing keeper, but also beat the post.

Jack Edwards was having the freedom of the park with a succession of darting runs down the right flank. His crosses were dangerous too and The Dale did well to survive without further goals against them.

The visitors' pressure mounted and it took the calm head of Kenny Devoir to firstly take the ball off the line as Tividale threatened to force it home and then to put in a timely header clear as the ball was recycled.

The half finished with a good save by Tom Hayward as Ben Taylor headed strongly for the top corner.

Tividale raised their tempo from the start of the second period and Brocton had to defend throughout, surviving a series of increasingly frantic attacks with a calm determination.

It all came with a cost as both Matt Skinner and Josh Wilson had to come off with injuries.

Their sterling efforts were so nearly not quite enough though as, with the final whistle close enough to touch, their defences were breached and a volleyed shot was struck from well within the home penalty box.

Tivi saw their FA Cup hopes dashed last weekend as they went down 5-1 to Westfields.

Heaviest defeat in 5 years for Cradley

CRADLEY slumped to their heaviest defeat in five years as they were thrashed 60-29 at Mildenhall on Sunday.

The Heathens travelled to West Row without influential heat leader Ashley Morris due to a fixture clash with Premier League side Peterborough. And they had no answer to the Fen Tigers as they were condemned to their worst result since a 64-27 hammering at Stoke in 2011.

Just six days after losing their proud unbeaten home record at the hands of local rivals Birmingham, Will Pottinger's side saw their National League play-off hopes dealt another major blow.

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